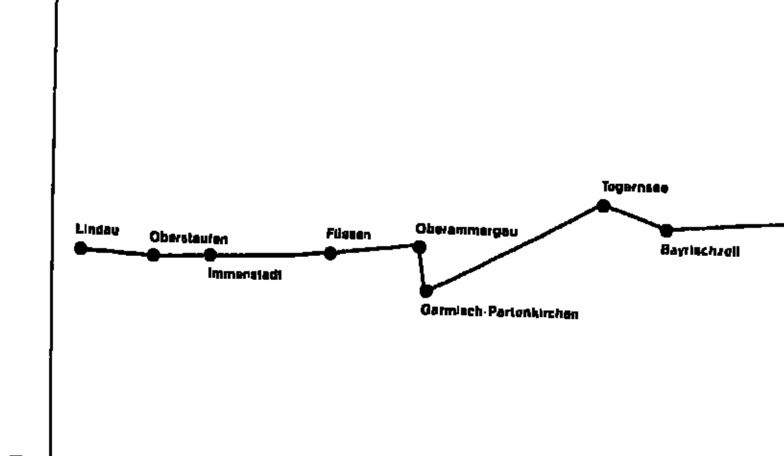
Routes to tour in Germany

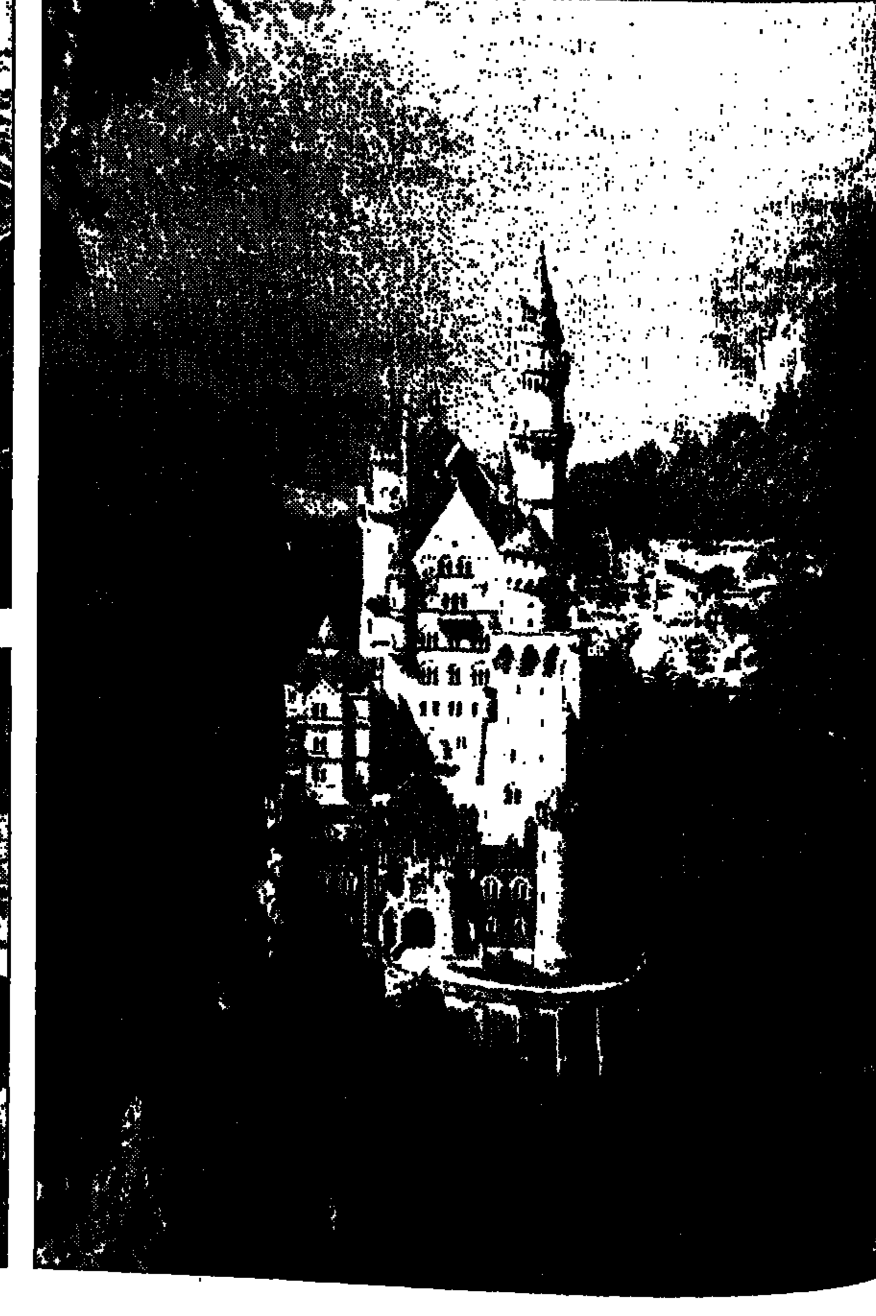
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2 Königssee
3 Lindau
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2




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The German Tribune

…burg, 3 June 1984
…nty-third year - No. 1135 - By air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

C 20725 C
ISSN 0016-8858

The Gulf War: not a solution in sight

DIE ZEIT

Land war in the Persian Gulf has become a naval war now the Iranian air force has attacked tankers belonging to Arab states on the Gulf after similar raids by Iraq.

Ayatollah Khomeini's representative on the Iranian Defence Council, Speaker Rafsanjani of the Majlis, has outlined his country's policy in plain and simple terms:

"Either everyone can sail safely in the Gulf or no-one can."

There have already been 300,000 deaths in the Gulf War, which has been waged on and off, regularly grinding to a halt, since September 1980.

Armies of Iranian children have been shot to shreds under Iraqi artillery fire. Iraq, which started the war, has been so hard pressed it has even used poison gas.

But the world has not allowed itself to be taken out of its stride. It has come to terms with the long war of attrition, and most countries are not even sorry to see the two sides bleeding each other to death.

Russians and Americans, Saudis and Kuwaitis prefer a bloodstained stalemate to the hegemonial claims a clear victor would be sure to stake.

They have all done their bit to keep the war smouldering. Russia is supplying Iraq with arms. So is France. The Gulf states are financing Iraq's arms purchases amounting to the tune of an estimated $30bn.

Allies of the superpowers also back Iran. Japan and the Federal Republic of Germany are Tehran's best trading partners, while arms suppliers include Israel, South Korea and several Soviet bloc states.

The Persian Gulf is in any case no longer as crucial for oil supplies to the industrialised countries as it was a few years ago. A mere nine per cent of West German oil imports come from the Gulf.

Insurance premiums for tankers in the war zone may have been increased, yet even if both sides' air forces continued to attack individual ships, oil exports would still not be brought to a halt.

The Economist, London, writes: "... if Iran's raids on shipping can be stopped by making Iraq call off its own attacks, this week's drum beat of crisis may fade."

This general condescension papers over a profound sense of uncertainty. If the Gulf War has not yet escalated into a world crisis, then it is less due to the world powers' crisis management than to the restraint observed by purportedly irrational rulers in the region, particularly in Iran.

Iraq too may one day not further escalate the tanker war by, for instance, attacking Iran's oil shipment facilities on Kharg island as it has long threatened to do.

Maybe Iran will not reply by raiding similar facilities in Kuwait or Saudi Arabia or make a desperate bid to block the Strait of Hormuz for tanker traffic.

Perhaps the world powers will succeed for some time to come in keeping out of the maelstrom of the war.

Maybe. But none of them can be relied on to do so any more than in 1914 the assassination of the Austro-Hungarian heir-apparent could be relied on not to trigger a world war.

The situation, US Vice-President George Bush said after a visit to Oman, was very, very bad and very, very serious. But wailing and gnashing of teeth will get us nowhere.

Both Russia and the West have not been able to reach a solution even though the interests of both tally more in the Gulf than just about anywhere.

The deep distrust between Moscow and Washington is mainly to blame.

Neither wants to take the first step toward containing the risk and persuading the embittered, embattled warring parties, rent by domestic dissension, to consider a compromise that might end the war.

The superpowers themselves are so at loggerheads that in the Gulf, as elsewhere, they are condemned to looking on idly while others decide whether the fighting is to be contained or extended.

Europe's Common Market countries have likewise been only bystanders so far, looking on while the war smouldered in the Gulf.

It is still not too late to make a joint bid to seek a solution, but time is running short, and raids on shipping in the Gulf show how the situation is growing steadily more serious.

In Tehran, Speaker Rafsanjani has warned there could be an "uncommonly significant development with unforeseeable repercussions."

Half a million Iranians are at the ready to fight the next offensive. Maybe it too will grind to a halt in the marshes along the Iraqi border.

And maybe, just maybe, everyone will keep their nerve and not pour still more oil into the flames. But that is something no-one has ever been able to bank on in the interest of world peace.

Christoph Bertram
(Die Zeit, 25 May 1984)

IN THIS ISSUE

A Royal occasion

The Queen accompanied by Sir Thomas Morony, Britain's military representative to Nato, rides under an arch of gun barrels during her visit to troops in Germany this month
(Photo: AP)

Genscher flatly rejects Soviet argument

The first day of talks between Herr Genscher and his Soviet opposite number, Mr Gromyko, in Moscow lived up to expectations. Nothing new transpired. There were no signs of a thaw in ties between the superpowers.

Terminological agreement in after-dinner speeches or communiques of late has been unable to bridge the yawning gap between East and West.

For the Soviet leaders Herr Genscher's visit, like others before it, mainly served the purpose of using Bonn as a lever to exert pressure on the United States.

Herr Genscher's spontaneous and unambiguous response to Mr Gromyko's attacks on the United States quickly clarified matters and showed how pointless such bids were.

What picture do East-West ties present in the light of the Moscow talks?

The Soviet Defence Minister, Marshal Ustinov, has just raised the threshold for the resumption of the Geneva missile talks so high that a return to the conference table by the superpowers can be ruled out for the time being.

The Kremlin has stepped up the European side of its Westpolitik while obliging its Warsaw Pact allies to draw a clearer demarcation line and tightening up checks on their ties with the West.

This is surely the context in which the Soviet Olympic pull-out and slogans of revanchism trundled out of the Cold War propaganda arsenal must mainly be seen.

Bonn alone, Mr Gromyko recently told Foreign Minister Moran of Spain, was in a position to get the East-West dialogue going again.

He told Herr Genscher too that the Federal Republic had a crucial part to play in surmounting difficulties in arriving at US-Soviet understanding.

But what can Bonn really do as long as Moscow refuses to make as much as a constructive gesture?

Nato signalled in Brussels last December that it was definitely prepared to hold talks, and the Brussels communique was drafted very much along lines suggested by Bonn.

The spring conference of Nato Foreign Ministers will take up and amplify this signal, with Bonn again putting in hard work to persuade the United States to go along with the line.

Yet readiness to negotiate on Nato's part is nothing more than redressing the balance of the dual-track strategy of ensuring the balance of military power while showing willing to cooperate.

Opportunities of at least improving the overall framework are provided this year by the Stockholm security and disarmament conference and the Vienna

Continued on page 2

■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Mitterrand and Kohl, the Euro pace-setters

DIE ZEIT

Chancellor Kohl and President Mitterrand don't emphasise their role as pacemakers in the EEC because they don't want to offend their partners in Europe.

But they both probably feel that it is they who are putting Europe into top gear.

Their relationship is certainly a good one. They are often said to be in cahoots.

Symbolic of this partnership are at least two joint projects they can virtually go ahead and sign.

One is the Franco-German battle helicopter, which is due to replace plans, long controversial, for a joint "tank for the 1990s".

A helicopter naturally has no more than symbolic value for the military and industrial cooperation in Europe to which reference is so often made.

Plans drawn up by French and German foreign trade experts to end difficulties arising from different technical standards in the two countries come in another category altogether.

This problem is one to which the French partly attribute their chronic current account deficit in trade with Germany.

The idea is to sever the Gordian knot and radically simplify inspection procedures for imports. It is envisaged as an advance move in preparation for harmonisation of standards throughout Europe.

This is a process on which EEC authorities in Brussels are working hard, but Chancellor Kohl's authorisation to go ahead and simplify on Germany's behalf has made this first move much easier.

The French President and the German Chancellor faced problems at a national level that were European in scope and, consciously or unconsciously, they resorted to methods tried and trusted in the 1950s.

Those were the days when the founding fathers gave Franco-German cooperation a European framework in order both to facilitate reconcilation between their two countries and to help set up the European Community.

The two leaders have memories in common. Helmut Kohl as a member of a youth delegation once spent half an afternoon with Robert Schuman, who made a lasting impression on him.

François Mitterrand has tales to tell of his experience as a member of M. Schuman's staff in the French goverment.

Such reminiscences might not have weighed so heavily had not both men from the outset felt security issues to be so serious that they had to demonstrate commitment.

M. Mitterrand will not have been the only one to feel the way he did when he made his memorable speech to the Bonn Bundestag in January 1983.

Similar worries united General de Gaulle and Chancellor Adenauer 25 years ago. Nothing formed a more effective initial bond between the two men than their instinctive reaction to Mr Khrushchev's Berlin threats.

In response to the 1958 Khrushchev ultimatum on Berlin, France and Germany devised a joint crisis strategy in dealings with their Anglo-American allies.

They were also keen to transform these points they shared into something European, although de Gaulle and Adenauer worked *from different thought* patterns and didn't always apply the same yardsticks to ties with the superpowers.

Helmut Kohl and Françoise Mitterrand are much closer on all these points.

The comparison with Adenauer and de Gaulle can be taken ever further. Take the matter-of-fact way in which M. Mitterrand donned the majestic constitutional cloak custom-built for General de Gaulle — a cut Herr Kohl greatly admires.

Take the Roman Catholic upbringing they shared and the training in history that gave both men the feeling of being rooted in Western thought.

As was the case with General de Gaulle and Chancellor Adenauer, each sees the other as embodying characteristics of the neighbouring country that are attuned to his own views.

President Mitterrand is greatly impressed by Chancellor Kohl's solidity, reliability, consistency and practicality.

The Chancellor may sound a lyrical note at times, but M. Mitterrand is sure to see that as typically German, perhaps being reminded of Heine's image of the sentimental oak tree.

There is a romantic trait in President Mitterrand's character too, but his is a much more reserved and uncommunicative personality.

The Chancellor doubtless sees him as a typical Frenchman, well versed in literary, intellectual and political pursuits. The French leader maybe smooth and detached, but when conversation grows more intimate he can be surprisingly jovial and ironic.

On this basis something more far-reaching than mere confidence is bound to develop in time. But the two leaders are not going to confide implicitly in each other. That next to never happens at their level of politics.

They call each other on the phone almost as often as Helmut Schmidt and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing used to, but instead of speaking English they rely on simultaneous interpreters.

When M. Mitterrand rang the Kohls at home in Ludwigshafen one weekend, the Chancellor's wife did the interpreting.

And when the two men conferred by phone 48 hours before the last EEC summit in Brussels ("You can count on me," the Chancellor said), President Mitterrand knew the summit would not be a personal defeat for him as President of the Council.

When the British later spread the rumour that an inept move by Herr Kohl had prevented the summit from being a success, President Mitterrand made sure that his staff staunchly defended the Chancellor.

This reciprocal backing and cover at times amounts to an allocation of roles along the lines of: "It would probably be best for you to grasp the initiative in this instance."

Helmut Schmidt and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing devised such joint approaches even more often, but they held office simultaneously for nine years.

The close ties between Herr Schmidt and M. Giscard d'Estaing began in 1972 when they were both Finance Minister. It was a kind of *coup de foudre*.

Besides, each saw the other as hailing from a world to which he lacked access. Schmidt saw Giscard as an aristocrat (although he isn't one, strictly speaking).

Giscard saw Schmidt as what he never succeeded in becoming: someone with whom intellectuals and the man in the street felt equally at home.

Relations between Herr Kohl and M. Mitterrand were overcast on one occasion when the President wanted to discuss an issue with the Chancellor but the Chancellor had an expert supply his answer.

The Chancellor soon realised that was not how the President saw their relationship.

Such minor mishaps are soon forgotten. M. Mitterrand has remained on good terms with another German, Willy Brandt, since their joint days in the Socialist International, and their relationship has weathered storms of an entirely different kind.

When M. Mitterrand and Herr Brandt had lunch recently at the Elysée Palace in Paris, M. Mitterrand made a remark such as can only be made at the family table when not everyone is present.

"Herr Kohl," he said, "has always spoken well of you." Willy Brandt showed no sign of surprise. Maybe he appreciated some of the implications.

Ernst Weisenfeld

(Die Zeit, 25 May 1984)

Continued from page 1

troop-cut talks, both of which are still in being.

Promising proposals have been submitted to both rounds of talks, for which Bonn deserves some of the credit in the West.

The same is true of the Geneva disarmament conference, which is considering an international ban on chemical weapons.

Over and above that, Bonn can only try to keep bilateral ties with the Soviet Union and its allies, including the GDR, running as smoothly as possible.

That was the main aim of Herr Genscher's visit to Moscow.

No progress in US-Soviet ties can be expected in a US Presidential election year, which is a great pity.

As entire new military technologies come swiftly into their own it will be increasingly difficult to get promising disarmament talks off the ground.

Hopes can at best be placed in 1985 and the long-overdue top-level general round of talks between America and Russia.

For months Herr Genscher has called on Washington, and now on Moscow, to return to the principles of the 1972 Nixon-Brezhnev Declaration in which the superpowers acknowledged their respective equal rights and pledged themselves to observe moderation and restraint.

That does indeed seem to be the only way to return to a sensible East-West dialogue.

Wolf J. Bell

(General-Anzeiger Bonn, 23 May 1984)

The hard faces up against Sakharov

Hard-nosed Kremlin leaders [illegible] not care two hoots about Olympic medals in Los Angeles, but will they allow confrontation to cost the lives of Andrei Sakharov and his wife?

A tight-lipped Mr Gromyko was [illegible] prepared to discuss the matter with Herr Genscher in Moscow. Bonn has in any case been reclassified as revanchist in the Soviet capital.

Anxiety over the ability of the Soviet dissident and his wife to survive illness and persecution, has sent their daughter on a mercy bid.

Her father, it may be recalled, was on a hunger strike to force the Soviet authorities to allow her to come to the West.

She is not on her own. The wave of sympathy and protest in the West has extended to governments and parliaments and led to fresh appeals to the Kremlin not to take punishment of the dissident to its ultimate, senseless conclusion.

Sakharov is on a hunger strike again to force the Soviet authorities to let his sick wife visit the West for treatment.

All he can do is try and win the support of world opinion, which sees him as the symbol of a civil rights movement that has survived against overwhelming odds and admires his courage.

His death and his wife's would trigger a storm of protest. It might not shake the Kremlin to its foundations but even cynics will not be keen to be branded worldwide as appalling evil-doers.

Moscow would also have to expect political consequences, even if they were only indirect or medium-term.

His life is all Nobel peace laureate Sakharov has to offer in his bid to bring his tormenters to their knees.

Yet Kremlin leaders from Mr Brezhnev onward have felt unable to overcome their reluctance and be humane toward a man who as a nuclear physicist has done much for his country.

His nuclear know-how is the pretext given for the Kremlin's refusal to allow him to leave the Soviet Union.

Moscow has so far been unmoved by the moral and political burden imposed by this case of individual hardship and the periodic outbursts of international protest it has occasioned.

The Soviet leaders similarly sat out the uproar over the shooting down of the South Korean airliner over Sakhalin.

But in the Sakharov case there will be no uncertainties and no excuses if the worst happens.

Sigmar Heilmann

(Mannheimer Morgen, 23 May 1984)

The German Tribune

Friedrich Reinecke Verlag GmbH, 23 Schoene Aussicht, D-2000 Hamburg 76, Tel · 22 85 1. Telex 02-14733.

Editor-in-chief Otto Heinz. Editor Alexander Anthony. English language sub-editor: Simon Burnett. — Distribution manager Georgine Picone

Advertising rates list No 16
Annual subscription DM 45

Printed by CW Niemeyer-Druck, Hameln

Distributed in the USA by MASS MAILINGS, Inc. [illegible] West 24th Street, New York N Y 10011

Articles in THE GERMAN TRIBUNE are translated from the original text and published by agreement with leading newspapers in the Federal Republic of Germany

In all correspondence please quote your subscription number which appears on the wrapper, between asterisks, above your address

■ THE PRESIDENCY

Von Weizsäcker to succeed Carstens

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Richard von Weizsäcker has been elected sixth president of the Federal Republic with overwhelming support although perhaps not with overwhelming sympathy.

Theodor Heuss, the second time he was elected, had a much more broadly-based majority. So did Heinrich Lübke, but party political motives played a role here.

This time the strength of support is for the personality of the Head of State. Over eighty per cent of the electoral college voted for him.

The electoral college comprises over 1,000 members, mostly Federal and Land MPs.

It is superfluous to point out here that Richard von Weizsäcker is eminently suited for the job — experience, education, powers of judgment, his humanity, his moral sense.

His career is identified with German history, personified in his own family whose uprightness and punctiliousness has attracted and maddened Germans for two generations.

The new President knows what has gone before and what are the important issues of the moment. That will do the Federal Republic a lot of good.

The power's of the President are limited. But no official, no government, no Chancellor and no parliament can disregard the office, even if out of calculated courtesy.

Honest Heinrich Lübke even went so far as to refuse to sign legislation that had been passed by the Bundestag. On another occasion he refused to give approval to the appointment of a senior official.

In the first instance he doubted the constitutionality of the legislation and in the second instance he doubted the man's qualifications.

It is also alleged that her did his utmost to hinder the work of a Foreign Minister, Gerhard Schröder, selected by the Chancellor. The government took the matter in hand an avoided a constitutional conflict.

Lübke's behaviour should not be held up for all to imitate on every occasion. The office must not be put under strain by the incumbent. It would be as well if the government and Parliament did not expect too much of the President. With Richard von Weizsäcker, a strong-willed man, this is to be particularly recommended.

The office of President has particular weight in what can be said. Basic Law does not say that the President cannot have a say on important topics, although it does not say that he should.

Since Theodor Heuss the important speeches of the Head of State have had an enobling, integrating effect — encouraging, enlightening, critical and admonishing.

Advance praise is out of order. What Weizsäcker has done in the past arouses high expectations. For instance consideration of what Germany was and is and can reasonably hope to become. "Division has distorted our perspectives, but we have not retired from the central position", he recently wrote.

He knows a lot about the political sensitivity of the Germans in East Germany. "The foremost question there is self-determination, less the German Question as a whole".

Who has given so much consideration to the Germans' identity problem? Weizsäcker is intimate with this, perhaps because as a Prussian it is near to the bone.

But he does not imagine the re-establishment of a single German nation state. He has said quite emphatically, taking the middle road, that it is essential to maintain good relations with the East German leadership. Just talking about armaments is not going to get anyone anywhere.

Another example could be Weizsäcker's pronouncements on the development over the past few years of the West German political parties.

He wrote that they had turned the state into booty, and had spread themselves like a grease mark over state institutions.

On the other hand, he said, that there was a great gulf between the power of the parties within the state and their ability to solve problems on the other. This was only read by academics and the media people. Will the new Federal Republic politely keep silent on this in the future? Let us hope that does not happen.

In the future we shall be engaged with

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Richard von Weizsäcker . . . identified with German history

(Photo: Sven Simon)

A talented man from a talented family

RHEINISCHE POST

Richard von Weizsäcker, who is to become the sixth Federal Republic President, has emerged from the shadow of his elder brother, physicist and philosopher Carl Friedrich. He is hailed as a second Theodor Heuss.

His popularity that extends beyond party lines is based in his personality, a character who is convincing in every way.

He has himself said publicly what he considers to be important — fairness, honesty, uprightness, realism, tolerance and, finally, Christianity. Everyone who has had anything to do with him has praised his personal qualities. He engenders respect, for example in the manner he conducted the election campaign in West Berlin. And the CDU can thank him, that as their most important thinker he has never led them into rutty pathways. He has kept his feet on the ground. For instance when in 1969/1970 the CDU considered dropping the C in the name, he spoke out for its retention. In this debate that became a discussion of basic principle Weizsäcker spoke out against no one. He showed to others how to be tolerant.

This attitude made it easier for him in the more difficult phases of his presidency of the lay council of the Evangelical Church.

He did not find it difficult, while Mayor of West Berlin, to be frank with officials in East Berlin with the risk that they would doubt his firmness.

He met Erich Honecker in such a manner as no false ideas wore carried away about his inflexibility in basic questions.

And he said to the popular daily *Bild Zeitung* that he was always prepared to do anything of service to the people in both parts of Germany, including making an official visit, to the East.

It would be a mistake to assume from his tolerance, his frankness, his soft tone that he was a weak politician. He knows all about political power and he knows how to use it, as was shown in West Berlin.

And he is not only firm on matters of basic principle. He also shows his firmness in matters that concern his own political future. He did not let his party talk him into remaining as Mayor of West Berlin. He persisted, unshakably in his candidacy for the Presidency.

Richard von Weizsäcker was born 64 years ago on 15 April 1920 in Stuttgart, the youngest of four children. He went to school in Basle, Copenhagen, Oslo, Bern and Berlin, because his father was a diplomat. He was a good skier and athlete and learned to play the trumpet, violin and guitar. The family was very musical, and often held concerts at home.

Outside family life two events, so he maintained, affected him considerably. He was a soldier for seven years and ended up a captain. During this time he had to make decisions that brought to an end his life as a young man.

The second influence was the trial of his father by the International Military Court in Nuremberg. His father was appointed a state secretary in the Foreign Ministry in 1939.

The father was sentenced to seven years imprisonment after a trial that wak condemned by Churchill, but he was released after serving only eighteen months. Richard von Weizsäcker although still studying, helped defend his father.

Rudolf Bauer

(Rheinische Post, 23 May 1984)

A big majority and broad support

Richard von Weizsäcker won 80 per cent of the electoral college votes to become the sixth President of the Federal Republic. He will take office in July.

He was given many votes from SPD members, following recommendations by the party leadership.

Two hundred votes were not cast for him. They went either to Luise Rinser, the Greens' candidate, a 73-year-old writer, or else they were spoiled.

Luise Rinser made her opposition to von Weizsäcker quite clear without, as is so often in these cases, resorting to cheap show-business tactics.

Her candidacy, although from the start without much hope, was respectable.

The new President will cause no worry. Like Karl Carstens, the incumbent, he will stamp the office with his own personality.

The Federal Republic is possibly unaware that until now it has had only good presidents. They have been very different one from another, but they have all brought dignity and benefit to the office, even the much maligned Heinrich Lübke.

Carstens, who will be leaving the Villa Hammerschmidt in Bonn, was perhaps a little plain, but he solved constitutional question of the dissolution of the Bundestag last year with statesmanlike qualities.

Before his election there was much ill-will against Carstens, but he conducted himself in office with authority and earned respect for the nation.

Von Weizsäcker will inherit the difficulties that began to emerge in the second half of Carstens' presidency.

The strife within various social groupings might be a threat in the next few years.

The growing strength of the Greens is a symbol of this, superfluous crises and the unfortunate party-donations-and-tax-amnesty affair.

The present strike and the screams that accompany it are all part and parcel of this.

The Federal Republic needs a president who stands by his membership of a Christian-conservative party along with the liberality of his political origins and convictions.

Perhaps it is asking too much but he should conduct himself as President of the Federal Republic as he conducted himself as the Mayor of West Berlin.

A President cannot do that alone. But this Federal President can strive in this direction with the authority of his apparently powerless office.

Gottfried Capell

(Frankfurter Neue Presse 24 May 1984)

■ SPD CONFERENCE

Delegates reject defence spending freeze

Hannoversche Allgemeine

The Opposition Social Democrats have rejected a demand for a freeze in defence spending. They voted against it at the party conference in Essen.

The conference also rejected, by a heavy majority, a motion calling for the nationalisation of the banks and key industries.

However, greater clarity on what the party does not want makes it no clearer how it is to breathe life into crucial policy areas such as peace, employment and the environment.

The conference gave no indication that a return to power is regarded as anything other than a distant prospect. Yet 18 months after losing power and a year after a crushing defeat at the polls, the initial mood of resignation no longer prevails.

Mistakes by the government have given the party a fillip and have brought hopes of a return to power a little closer.

Plans are already being drawn up for the day when the SPD does get back into power. The party regards its time in Opposition not as an evil that must be endured simply by attacking the government, but as an opportunity for renewal.

For a party that sets out to improve society, programmes are much more important than for a party with the aim of maintaining the status quo.

What the SPD wants is so far apparent only in vague outline. The Essen party conference limited itself to defining where it now stands.

The party resisted the temptation to veer off into ideas of salvation and compete with the Greens at devising a utopia.

Herr Brandt said the SPD was middle-of-the-road in its social stance. He wants not just workers and trade union officials as members but also non-committed members of the public, white-collar workers and the self-employed.

In calling for realism and retention of the experience gained while in power he took on the role of Helmut Schmidt, whose retirement from the deputy leadership has deprived the SPD of a counterweight to imagination run riot and to exorbitant demands.

Potential successors to Willy Brandt, 70, as SPD leader must first gain in stature beside the great man.

By a substantial majority a resolution calling for nationalisation of the banks and key industries was rejected. Also rejected was the demand for a freeze in defence spending.

But greater clarity on what Social Democrats don't want is still no clear guide to how life is to be breathed into key policy sectors such as peace, work and the environment.

Dislike of a deterrent strategy threatening an aggressor with one's own destruction is all well and good, as is a dislike of nuclear weapons and medium-range missiles. But the balance of power must still be maintained.

That includes a well-equipped Bundeswehr with conventional arms sufficient to withstand attack by a potential aggressor, which will cost money. This is a point the SPD leaders have grasped but one the rank and file are reluctant to take.

Relations between state and economy are unclear. The SPD is quick to pay lip service to the free market economy but it is still strongly tempted to see government intervention as the answer to all problems.

Social Democrats may not want to emulate Ned Ludd, but the new technology must remain controllable and be controlled by industrial democracy and government supervision.

The SPD's attitude toward money also needs clarifying. The SPD-FDP Bonn coalition partly came a cropper because the party was unbeatable at spending money but stabbed fellow-Social Democrats in the back who sought to save cash.

If the SPD is to fund new activities on returning to power it must first cut government spending in other departments.

The credibility of well-meaning intentions is in no way heightened by an SPD that instead raises fresh taxes or plans to rifle the pockets of the well-to-do or plunge the state deeper into debt.

The SPD, like the Conservatives, lacks the courage to take on powerful lobbies. Both claim to aim their policies at an independent public who can think for themselves, yet neither is always aware of the fact.

The SPD's reputation suffers from being made the political beagle of any particular group, no matter how powerful. The interests of organisation officials must not be the yardstick of social policies.

Social Democrats would be well advised while in Opposition to dig a little deeper.

Wolfgang Mauersberg

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 21 May 1984)

842 resolutions and a big change at the rudder

Nordwest Zeitung

At their first full party conference since losing power in Bonn the Social Democrats elected a new leadership in Essen. The conference also dealt in detail with economic and security policy and the media.

Willy Brandt, 70, SPD leader since 1964, was re-elected. Hans-Jochen Vogel, Opposition leader in the Bundestag, was elected deputy leader alongside Johannes Rau, Prime Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia.

Herr Vogel took over in this capacity from ex-Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, who made the opening address at the five-day conference but retired from the party leadership.

Economic policy predominated at a conference where 400 delegates dealt with 842 resolutions.

The resolution tabled by the national executive favoured a future-oriented industrial policy aimed at creating new jobs, especially in the service and environmental sectors.

The working-class wing of the party was planning to table a resolution calling for nationalisation of the steel industry, but it decided not to do so.

Left-wing Social Democrats accuse the national executive of backing virtually nothing but economic policy "white elephants." A new economic and social order, they argue, must be guided by the needs of workers and consumers, not by profit considerations.

They favour state control of investment, higher taxes, higher public-sector borrowing and clear priority for the 35-hour working week on full pay.

But the SPD is not to arrive at a final decision on economic policy until 198[illegible].

The largest number of resolutions, 314, dealt with foreign, peace and security policy. At its November 1983 Cologne conference the SPD voted almost unanimously against the deployment of new US missiles in Germany. The party is now on the lookout for security policy alternatives.

The resolution submitted by the national executive aims at a European peace order based on East-West security partnership. The Nato concept of nuclear deterrence is to be gradually replaced by a balance of military power on the basis of conventional armaments at as low a level as possible.

Left-wingers were worried that this approach might lead only to even higher defence spending.

Less attention was paid at Essen to the 17 June elections to the European Parliament, for which the party leadership agreed in February on a manifesto.

dpa

(Nordwest Zeitung, 16 May 1984)

Schmidt warns party, reminds it of its obligations

Helmut Schmidt's speech at the SPD conference in Essen was his last as a leader of the party.

It was a courageous address in which he reminded of obligations rather than outlining new horizons. He issued warnings rather than encouragement.

It would have been easy for him to concentrate on the shortcomings of the Bonn coalition, of which there has been no shortage.

Saarbrücker Zeitung

Any of several catchphrases, from the Wörner Affair to the amnesty plan for party-political donations, would have been enough to trigger tumultuous applause for the former Chancellor.

But he chose not to. He dealt only briefly, if critically, with the Bonn coalition, leaving it to Hans-Jochen Vogel to go on the attack.

Herr Vogel, Shadow Chancellor and Opposition leader in the Bonn Bundestag, was elected in Schmidt's place as deputy party leader.

What amounted to Schmidt's last political will and testament was a fair dressing-down for a party conference.

He constantly exhorted members to base their work on what had been achieved during their 16 years in Bonn. He reaffirmed the principle of a balance of military power as the basis of peace, reminding the conference that the Federal Republic of Germany was allied with the United States and remained dependent on America.

Both are points that are not particularly popular in the SPD today.

Schmidt was also worried that the SPD might begin indulging in unhindered economic theorising.

It will be hard for the Social Democrats to trust in experience rather than theory when for the foreseeable future their contribution toward Bonn government policies can hardly hope to be practical in the sense that SPD ideas can command majority support.

The return to power may already have begun, as Herr Schmidt said. Today's Opposition is always tomorrow's government. But it will be a while yet.

Willy Brandt recently said the SPD planned to regain power in Bonn via local government and state assembly elections.

He led the SPD from 1966 to 1982. Under his leadership the SPD lost power in Bonn. He now plans to lead it back into government.

But Herr Brandt is thinking beyond the lifetime of the present Bundestag.

Volker Jacobs

(Saarbrücker Zeitung, 18 May 1984)

Its beginnings

The Social Democratic Party, one of the two main political parties in the Federal Republic of Germany, has a chequered past dating back over a century.

In 1875, Ferdinand Lassalle's General German Workers' Association and the Social Democratic Workers' Party, led by August Bebel and Wilhelm Liebknecht, merged to form the Socialist Workers' Party of Germany. It later became the SPD.

The new party was based in Hamburg but banned from 1878 to 1890 by Bismarck.

Once it was allowed to operate legally again it went from strength to strength. In 1916 left-wingers left the SPD to form the USPD, many of whose members later joined the Communist Party. The SPD was banned again by Hitler in 1933.

In 1959 the party adopted the Godesberg Manifesto, finally making the change from a revolutionary class party to a reformist popular one.

The party now has about 950,000 members. In 1982 28 per cent were wage-earners, 25 per cent salary-earners, 10 per cent civil servants and 12 per cent housewives.

The SPD is closely organised by local group, sub-region and region. In *Länder* with several party regions there are *Land* executive committees.

The party as a whole has a steering committee, a presidium, a national executive, a control commission and the party conference.

The national conference, held every other year, is the highest decision-making body. It is attended by regional delegates and members of the national executive and the control commission.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 18 May 1984)

■ PERSPECTIVE

Bid to widen debate on issue of 'no first use'

Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt

Scientists, politicians and military men from Germany and the United States are trying to widen public discussion on the Nato strategy of possibly using nuclear weapons first if war breaks out in Europe.

One hundred and fifty of them met at Loccum Protestant Academy, near Hanover, to talk about "no first use".

The idea of pledging the West to "no first use" along lines similar to the Soviet declaration at the UN General Assembly was first made in spring 1982 by four Americans.

These four men, promptly dubbed the Gang of Four, were McGeorge Bundy, George F. Kennan, Robert S. McNamara and Gerard C. Smith.

In February 1983 the Union of Concerned Scientists then issued a report backed by American and German scientists, politicians and military men in which a formal US renunciation of first use of nuclear weapons was advocated.

In the United States the "no first use" proposal has been endorsed by 43 Nobel prize-winners, 500 members of the Academy of Sciences and by the Roman Catholic bishops.

In Germany, in contrast, and in spite of growing dissatisfaction with and in part public criticism of Nato's flexible response strategy, there is no such public debate.

One aim of the Loccum gathering, extremely well attended by 150 participants, was to launch a widely-based process of social discussion and make a critical appraisal of the idea.

Yet there was no real dialogue with supporters of official Nato doctrine. Representatives of the Bundeswehr, Nato and the US embassy in Bonn were strictly opposed to the "no first use" concept.

They argued for the most part that to renounce first use would be to reduce the risk faced by the Soviet Union, to weaken the deterrent effect and to make a conventional war more likely.

Nato's director of information, Wilfried A. Hofmann, did not feel the pact's current doctrine faced a crisis. His view was that intellectuals were finding it increasingly difficult to accept the paradox of deterrence.

He linked the "no first use" debate with Soviet psychological warfare on the West and called on all democrats to make a firm anti-communist commitment.

The course of debate in Loccum clearly showed the "no first use" proposal to be a platform for a wide variety of viewpoints.

But all its supporters have doubts as to the credibility of the suicide threat implied in the flexible response doctrine.

They are also sceptical as to the possibility of keeping escalation under control once the nuclear threshold has been crossed.

There were fears of a strategy amounting to self-destruction encountering growing opposition in Europe and proving dynamite for Nato as long as the final decision rested with a non-European politician.

Its supporters also agree that a massed Soviet tank attack, to which Nato armament is currently geared, is fairly unlikely.

Representing the Gang of Four, the head of the US delegation at the Salt I talks, Gerard C. Smith, said a massive conventional arms build-up by Nato with a four-per-cent annual increase in defence spending was indispensable for a "no first use" policy.

The head of a study group for the Union of Concerned Scientists, Vice-Admiral John M. Lee (retd.), also felt a two- to three-per-cent annual increase in defence spending would be essential. German speakers strongly disagreed.

Views similarly differed on the form conventional improvements should take. Mr Smith said his views tallied completely with plans drawn up by Nato C-in-C General Bernard Rogers.

General Rogers' proposals are aimed at boosting Nato's offensive capacity by means of long-range weapons aimed at airfields and troop assembly centres deep in enemy hinterland, which in the event of a crisis would make it much more difficult to keep escalation under control.

There is indeed no great difference between the Smith proposals, which envisage an initial "de facto no first use" phase, followed by a formal renunciation toward the end of the century, and the Rogers plan to raise the nuclear threshold by conventional reinforcements, amounting to a policy of "no early first use."

Otto Schily, the Green Bonn MP, suspected that the "no first use" proposal might in the final analysis be no more than a smokescreen for a massive conventional arms build-up.

These misgivings were shared by Germans who had endorsed the report by the Union of Concerned Scientists, as was apparent from the ideas outlined by Lutz Unterseher of the Alternative Security Study Group.

He called for the Bundeswehr to be re-equipped and run along lines that were without the slightest doubt defensive in character.

An important factor, according to Bremen peace researcher Dieter Senghaas and Bonn SPD MP Karsten Voigt, was that the debate on renunciation of the first use of nuclear weapons was not based solely on military considerations.

A major function of the debate, as Senghaas saw it, was to contribute toward a denuclearisation of political and military thinking.

Voigt stressed the need to arrive at parallel political agreements, such as treaties renouncing the use of force to settle disputes, with the Warsaw Pact countries.

This view was shared by Professor Harald Lange of the GDR Institute of International Political and Economic Affairs, who was the only speaker from the Warsaw Pact countries.

On balance it may be said that the Loccum conference made it clear a purely military debate on the "no first use" proposal could lead to a massive conventional arms build-up without tension being reduced in any way.

If gradual denuclearisation of Europe was to be the objective, the proposal must be incorporated in a new detente initiative bearing in mind the structure of conventional armed forces.

Guido Grünewald

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 29 April 1984)

Continued from page 3

the problem of the competence of the democratic system, the 'governability' of a free, fastidious society and the handicaps of elections every so often.

The Head of State is certainly not the last court of appeal as regards style and competence in political dealings. But he certainly does not need to go to a notary public to be empowered to speak out.

His words have a power that cannot be pushed aside easily, and certainly not when he concerns himself with matters of conscience involving political responsibility.

The prestige of the Federal Republic system has been tarnished in the past few years. It has been particularly battered among the younger generation.

The sixth President of the Republic should do all he can so that the feelings of identity the Germans have with themselves and with community is extended and that their faith in their own abilities is again strengthened.

Hans Heigert

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 24 May 1984)

Nato looks at the tactical possibilities

Many complaints can be made about Nato. After 35 years any organisation is going to need overhauling. The pact must certainly stop thinking militarily in terms of Second World War categories.

Electronics and missiles have substantially reduced the importance of central weapon systems such as tanks, aircraft and frigates.

The Rogers plan would be a realistic adaptation to the correction of classical planning made necessary by the pace of technological development.

Nato's commander-in-chief wants to quit the planning terrain of a battle waged on the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany.

He takes a dim view of defensive arrangements that entail one's own forces first nimbly sidestepping the attack, then regrouping after strategic reserves have been raised (one wonders where from) and retaking terrain previously lost.

The deterrent value of battle planning along these lines carries little conviction. General Rogers in contrast would like to use the latest electronic techniques to reconnoitre deep inside enemy territory.

He plans to use missiles and multi-role weapons to separate and destroy the three waves of enemy attack in depth.

This offensive defence, gaining ground and covering a wide area yet also capable of knocking out a specific target, is not highly rated in the Atlantic camp.

Instead, there is talk of resurrecting plans for a European army. Lyrical mention is made of two pillars on which the bridge of Atlantic security might rest: US military might and a consolidated European military presence.

Western European Union Foreign Ministers, representing Britain, France, Italy, Benelux and Germany, are to meet later this month.

They will be discussing the establishment of a European arms industry and whether the Anglo-French nuclear deterrent might one day be able to replace America's nuclear shield over Europe.

They will also be sounding out prospects of closer cooperation between European Nato armed forces with a view to eventually setting up a European army.

In London reservations are voiced in connection with these plans. What the Benelux countries might do hardly matters. They are not a factor to be reckoned with militarily. Italy is a little off the beaten track, viewed from the central front.

France in contrast has emerged as the vanguard of the European security initiative, while Germany too is moderately keen on a European army.

The term has an agreeable ring, but what it really means is closer Franco-German collaboration.

President Mitterrand is alarmed at the idea of America transferring its interest to the Pacific. He is also worried about the future policies Bonn may adopt.

France suspects the Germans of backsliding into neutrality. Closer ties between Bonn and Paris could well, the French argue, benefit both in military terms and help to offset a possible withdrawal of US units from Europe.

Bonn too has ideas at the back of its mind. For one, the Federal government hopes the French will allocate fighting units for forward defence as soon as possible, preferably in peacetime.

Second, Bonn wants to gain an insight into French nuclear planning. Yet both are illusory hopes.

As for the deployment of French forces, there is little Paris has to offer at present. The French army is in the process of being regrouped. It will be nearly a decade before France's rapid deployment force is anywhere near Nato standards in arms and equipment.

We can only have faint hopes of being allowed to share in French nuclear planning. That would presuppose a basis of trust which would bring not only French and Germans much closer in military terms.

At present, however, French Pluto tactical nuclear missiles are aimed at targets in West Germany.

In a few years' time French Hades missiles will be capable of reaching targets in the GDR, while by the end of the century France will have roughly 1,200 nuclear weapon systems. We as France's partners and neighbours have no idea what purpose they are supposed to serve!

Paris insists that the *force de frappe* is intended merely to protect France and thus, as a national system, need not be incorporated in a European army.

So why should we bother setting one up as a part of Nato?

The three leading Communist Parties in Western Europe, the French, Spanish and Italian, have for years endorsed their countries' respective military policies.

They would object volubly to any change and work to prevent it. So why not let sleeping dogs lie? Nato has enough other psychological burdens to bear.

Adelbert Weinstein

(Welt am Sonntag, 20 May 1984)

■ LABOUR

The poser: would 35-hour week mean more jobs?



Standing up for their rites: Daimler-Benz engineering workers ceremonially bury the 40-hour week (Photo: ...)

Disputes between trade unions and employers follow a standard format: they are over how much should be given in pay rises and benefits and how much should be withheld for investment.

It is obvious that in such disputes both sides have considerable freedom, assuming common sense is applied and there is no likelihood of economic damage as a result of the negotiations.

With a few exceptions that prove the rule, common sense has prevailed in the recent past.

The trade unions have been moderate in their demands in a period of high unemployment and declining profits because the competitive situation on world markets has been distorted by various national intervention measures.

They have had to take that into account as well as the fact that cash that could have been invested domestically has fled to foreign capital markets, where it can earn more than can be earned here.

The unions have had to put up with this unavoidable side-effect of a free international money market, although there has often been heard in the past calls for a link with state capital and investment.

Finally there have been some unhappy experiences of state or "society" connections with the domestic economy.

What has changed? What has happened to cause the metalworking and *printing industries to go on strike?*

It must be emphasised from the outset that both the trade unions involved in the strike are engaged in a classic labour dispute. They assert that their demands, above all the call for the introduction of the 35-hour week, are concerned with an economic structural crisis.

They believe that lost jobs will not be re-created by the management side of industry, so it is only possible to increase the number of jobs available by those who have jobs spending less time on the job.

The union demands are, then, an attempt to deal with unemployment.

This could only be the case, however, if the unions were prepared to strive for a relative reduction in the cost of the time worked. But they want a reduction in the time worked at the same pay as is offered in the 40-hour week, which would mean, in fact, a twelve per cent pay increase.

To any thinking person involved in domestic economic affairs it must be incomprehensible how such an increase in the cost of a work place can lead to the creation of more jobs. It is much more likely to put pressure on employers to seek new ways of rationalising their operations to save on labour.

Workers can only talk about solidarity with the unemployed when they are prepared to accept the introduction of shortened working time and be prepared to surrender some of their pay, or when employers and employees sit down together and discuss how they will divide up the increased cost.

But there is no question of this and unions are demanding the same pay for shorter working hours. Despite all that the unions say to the contrary the present labour dispute is a pure wages conflict with special overtones. This does not exclude the view that the shortened working week can be a sensible union demand if it is brought up at the annual round of pay discussions- , which, in fact, do not achieve much for the employee, when the increase appears on paper as a percentage.

In other words the question of a shortened working week would appear as a gain in routine pay discussions. But in any event shorter working time and pay increases must be seen together in the same light.

Over a long period a reduction in the time worked could in fact be introduced to have a neutral effect on costs. Then, in a cautious way, it could be investigated if shortened work time did in reality have an effect on the labour market.

The unions now admit that not everything can be achieved at once, and they will be thankful for one step forward, and they realise that only one item can be "snatched" at the present, the 35-hour week. But it must now be asked if this is the right time for such a "snatch".

Finally, some realities stand in the way of an agreement. Would it not have been possible to achieve the 35-hour week peacefully, without union intervention? And it must be remembered that the unions have not tested out the 35-hour week or considered when it should be suitably introduced.

Former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt told his SPD colleagues, in his farewell speech at the SPD party conference, "Nothing is achieved by accident, or after consideration".

Nothing will be achieved by acting emotionally. This message can only be achieved by calm consideration, applied to the current dispute in the metalworking and printing industries.

The unions' radical increase in the demands and their ideological self-righteousness stand in the way of a solution.

Other unions have chosen other methods than IG Metall and IG Druck und Papier. They have used the measures laid down in law and have concluded wage agreements this way. At the SPD party conference critical murmurs were heard questioning if the two unions had drawn up their demands for the 35-hour week in such a way as to place them outside the economic and political pale.

It should not necessarily deflect them from demanding, after a reduced working week, a shortened working life.

The more shrill the unions' tone gets the more difficult it will be to reach a compromise. This creates the suspicion that the unions' aim is to polarise the situation, so that this can be used as fuel to power a revolution for the nationalisation of the economy via the unions.

There are reasons to believe that the strike is not popular. That should calm down unions that in the past have always maintained that they do not represent any one particular party interest.

It will not be long before we see if compromise belongs to their political vocabulary.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 20 May 1984)

Uphill struggle

(Cartoon: Murschetz/Die Zeit)

■ BUSINESS

Industry 'has a phobia about technology'

A phobia about technology is partly to blame for Germany's difficulty in producing new products that will sell, says a spokesman for industry.

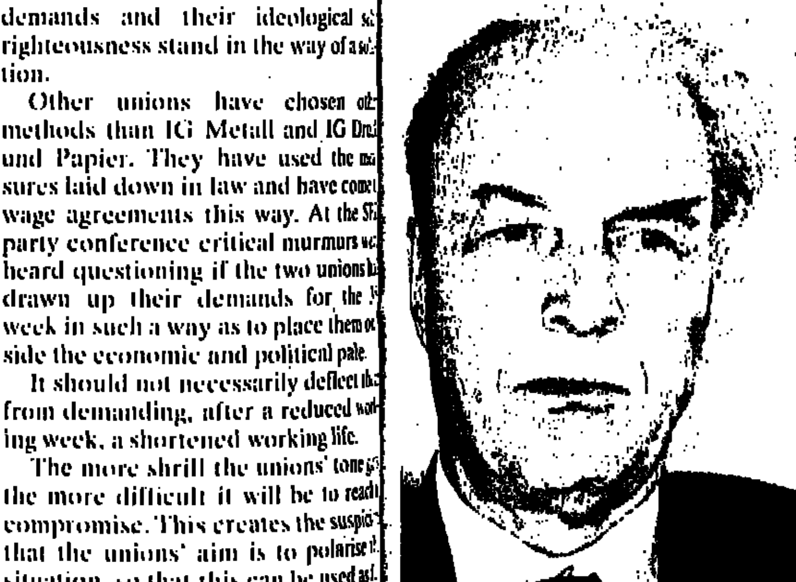
Professor Rolf Rodenstock, president of the Federation of German Industry, told the annual meeting in Bonn that the phobia was only slowly being overcome.

But he also said that West German industry had basically lost none of its flair.

If it had become difficult to use industry's technical efficiency in the production of salable new products that was not due entirely to the competition.

It was much more due to a phobia against technology that had developed over the past few years, that was only now being slowly overcome.

Turning to the current industrial strife the industry president regretted that the "Concerted Action" process had not been called upon to bring a settlement to the conflict.



Joachim Langmann . . . next in line (Photo: dpa)

He said that recent developments showed a positive trend in industry, but he expressed concern that a long-drawn-out labour conflict could impair the business outlook.

Two discussions were devoted to the theme "Innovation, the Future of our Economy". Chaired by president of the West German Economic Institute (Cologne), Professor Gerhard Fels, Heinz Nixdorf and Klaus Weissermel, both businessmen discussed with the Posts Minister Christian Schwarz-Schilling, SPD politician Andreas von Bülow and the innovation researcher Professor Erich Staudt West German innovation possibilities and how to introduce technological adjustments into the economy.

Future strategy possibilities were discussed by two other businessmen Tyll Necker and Heinrich Weiss, Hans Tietmeyer, a state secretary at the Finance Ministry, the SPD economic expert Ulrich Steger, the EEC Commissioner Karl-Heinz Narjes and the financing expert Albrecht Matuschka.

With varying emphases the two groups discussed:

- Gaps where innovation could step in are not so dependent on basic technical research as on economic factors and organisational and financial advice
- The tendency in the West German tax system is for the state to take part in successful innovatory undertakings that unsuccessful ventures.
- Commercial profits are not so much fixed on quick returns as earnings over a long-term. There is plenty of cautious capital around but not very much risk capital.
- Technical and economic feelers for innovation cannot come from the state, but they must come from the private sector. It is to be hoped that there might be closer cooperation between the business and scientific sectors and the state as a source of eventual contracts.
- The tax system is not the only important factor for innovation, since education, training is also vital. West German industry needs talent at the top. In order to get innovation society must tolerate an intellectual elite, but one which is not guaranteed privileges.
- Searching for areas where innovation can play a part can induce a sense of power in international markets, but the policy must be to open up markets not to slam down the bulkhead, as it were.

Rolf Rodenstock . . . 'still plenty of flair around' (Photo: Sven Simon)

At the BDI conference a successor to out-going president Professor Rolf Rodenstock was elected. Hans Joachim Langmann, managing director of E Merck of Darmstadt. He takes office on 1 January next year.

An innovation at this year's conference was that a successor was elected to a successor. Langmann said that he was only prepared to accept office if it was clearly understood that he would only serve for two years and that his successor was elected at the same time as himself.

He will be succeeded by Tyll Necker, managing director of the Wako-Werke of Bad Oldesloe. He made it a condition of his candidature that he should not take office before 1987.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 16 May 1984)

Commercial push for young high-tech entrepreneur

Meino Heyen decided for himself that he would go self-employed.

"There comes a time," the young electronics technician said, "when you either go to Siemens or you decide to make your own way."

From the very beginning he was not very keen to go into a large company, as did most of his companions after they had finished at university, to work in an enormous laboratory and wait around until it was time to be pensioned off.

Now that he has graduated he intends to do research of his own and he hopes that in about a year's time he will be able to sell his own electronic components.

He has concentrated on transmitting and receiving technology using optical fibre cables. The competition in this high technology sector, what there is of it, comes from the USA and Japan.

But it will take a year before he has built his first unit and he can approach customers. He has to cover this period financially.

Then he heard of a technology centre in Aachen. A little while ago the local chamber of commerce and industry, the Technical University and various other organisations established a centre for innovators. It's basic aim is to give a start to young entrepreneurs in high technology, setting out on their own. They can set up their office or laboratory in the centre's building and they can get something in the way of financial support.

The local chamber decided to go ahead with this idea hoping that it would give some stimulation to the region that is econically dying. The coal mining industry in the Aachen area has known bette days and the processing industries have over the past five years reduced the jobs available by 10,000.

In a recent study that has not yet been made public it is forecaste that up to 1990 it is essential to create 50,000 new jobs if the position is not to get worse.

It would have been idle dreaming to expect major firms suddenly to decide to invest in Aachen, so there was nothing left but for the city officials to come up with something themselves. But in fact the regional planners have an advantage that could make other planners envious, for Aachen is right close to the Rheinisch-Westfälische Hochschule and the Jülich nuclear power station.

Volker Hepple, a technololgy adviser to the chamber of commerce and industry has considered how it would be possible to turn this local concentration of technology to advantage, and he has achieved much over the past few years.

He said: "Our object must be to aid the small and medium-sized businessmen."

For some time there has been a cooperation agreement between the University and the chamber of commerce concerning the transfer of technological research."

Hepple said: "What's the use of the most wonderful research results when they cannot be evaluated by business people." But this was not enough for the people in Aachen. They did not want to do something that would just aid industrialists already set up, they wanted and had to do something that would create new jobs.

A slogan was devised — "The Aachen economic region — a site for the industries of tomorrow", which concentrated minds on the target group of young graduates, such as Meino Heyen, who have good ideas but not much money.

The University, bankers, the local chamber of commerce and industry and

Hannoversche Allgemeine

local industry itself joined together to form the Aachen Association for Innovation and Technological Transfer *which purchased a disused factory site* that had 3,500 square metre available, enough space for young industrialists to start off in business.

It was a relatively easy business to rennovate the building but it was not so easy for Volker Hepple to raise cash.

A half of the DM1.5 million needed was contributed by the federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia, the rest had to be provided locally.

Hepple grumbled: "You cannot believe how difficult it is to make a bank enthusiastic to the tune of DM20,000 for such a project." But he overcame all the difficulties and the money was raised for the centre.

Eventually there will be thirty young industrialists in the centre. They will pay the market price of DM8.50 per square metre rent and DM600 for servicing the central office, which provides a telephone answering service, secretarial assistance, someone to handle the post and all other administrative facilities.

Meino Heyen was advised by his professor at Aachen University to get in touch with the centre. He immediately followed this up and was speedily looked at closely by Volker Hepple, for the centre is none too eager to have people in its facilities who, it is obvious to see from the beginning, are not going to come out of the initial phase successful.

When he had been vetted by the Aachen Association for Innovation and Technological Transfer and the go ahead had been signed the Association discussed with him problems of financing. In this respect the Aachen people have become specialists for they know where there is money to be had from government, state government and other sources for young researchers.

Jürgen Zurheide

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 19 May 1984)

The race for the future

Market share of exports involving advanced technology (100% includes these 6 nations only)

	1972	1983
USA	32%	37%
Fed Rep Germany	26	17
Britain	14	10
Japan	13	25
France	11	8
Switz.	4	3

Globus

■ FINANCE

Europe at a technological crossroads: cooperation essential, says Genscher

Christ und Welt
Rheinischer Merkur

Has West Germany missed the technological boat? Is it already in a technological backwater? There is much talk of the technological gap getting wider and wider.

The prophets of doom, however, mean much more than just West Germany. They mean Europe. They are concerned that Europe could become a "micro-electronic colony" of the American giant as is Japan and the Far East.

So how can Europe pull itself together technologically? This theme was the subject of a conference called by the Foreign Affairs Ministry in Bonn attended by industrialists, scientists, representatives from relevant associations and the media. Host, main speaker and chairman of the discussions was Foreign Affairs Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

Genscher, a proponent of jet diplomacy, a man who is more often in the air than at his desk in Bonn, is quick to grasp new trends. With his feel for new ideas he was an initiator of the discussion "The Pacific Challenge" (meaning Japan) that took place last year, in much the same way as he has taken up the idea of how to make good, and what are the chances for, European technology.

The discussion was managed by Konrad Seitz from the Foreign Ministry, who has spent much time considering future developments and who wrote the Minister's opening speech for him.

Genscher has no time for the Pacific option for America, an America that is tired of Europe, with world politics and economics revolving round the Pacific and the Atlantic.

The Minister does not go along with the idea of "here Europe, there the Pacific". He speaks rather of a triangle that takes in America, Europe and the Far East which he would like to join in Bonn's foreign policy.

A recurring theme in the technological discussion was the view that although there was an urgent need for cooperastion within the framework of the EEC Europeans must be prepared to enter into worldwide partnerships.

The aim of cooperation strategy in the new key technologies should not be a self-sufficient Europe. That is just empty rhetoric. Euroe is as ever concerned with prestige projects, egoism and research undertakings in which the nations go it alone. Talk of the possibilities of coooperation that springs accross frontiers is quite out.

Genscher maintains that billions are thrown away by the various European countries on technology, developed twice, three times, four times over. Genscher believes that Europe should not only be a pillar in the security policy of the Atlantic Alliance but a pillar in technological partnership, in which France and West Germany working closely together could play a pioneer role.

If Europe wishes to continue in the pitiless race with America and Japan two major challenges must be met; the micro-electronic (computers, new communications technology and robots) and bio-technology, the technicological utilisation of biological processes.

In micro-technology Europe has an open worldwide market, a third of which is served by European companies, a third by subsidiaries overseas and a third by imports from overseas. A lot of effort would be needed to displace this arrangement to the advantage of America or Japan.

America is way to the fore in data banks. The limiting factor in this sector is the language problem. English is absolutely essential. But as was said at the discussion the West German information industry should not give in for there are 110 million people for whom German is the mother tongue.

An industry spokesman took the field against the Monopolies Commission favouring "small is beautiful" in technological cooperation and cited case of the Prügel company. He said: "Monopoly law should prevent competition distortion, but it hinders competitiveness on international markets."

In conciliatory mood Genscher said there was a conflict of aims between the necessity of cooperating and extensive competition.

Space travel is a fine examnple of European cooperation in the high technology sector. The European Space Agency's most important projects are the launcher rocket Ariane "with France as the managing nation", the Spacelab project (managing nation West Germany) and the tele-communications system (with Britain as the managing nation). Asa opposed to national projects these have in their favour the sharing of development costs and for the partner countries an enlarged domestic market. Ariane and Spacelab are just as good as American models, although not superior.

Europe is in no position to use space travel for military purposes, unlike America and extensively armed Soviet Russia.

In America the armament's industry is the driving engine of civilian research, while in West Germany civilian and military projects are far apart.

The main advantage the USA has is that, contrary to a divided up Europe, the American's have a large, uniform market. Europe, and particularly West Germany, makes a mistake in that the armament's industry is an entity on its own and coordination with civilian research causes trouble.

Taking all things into account Japan is way ahead of Europe and West Germany in technology. In Japan the professional engineer has far higher social prestige than in Europe. Measured in terms of population twice as many engineers go through training as here. Miscro-processors, robots and automated factories get favourable public attention. They are not regarded as "job killers" but as support for an improvement in the quality of life.

The large and successful West German industrial show in Tokyo showed that two economic giants, who compete considerably on international markets, could work together technologically rather than as competitors.

Count Otto Lambsdorff wrote recently in *Rheinische Merkur/Christ und Welt* after his return from Tokyo that in Japan, where people work a 45-hour week and have only half the holidays people in West Germany get, there was little understanding of the 35-hour working week debate.

At the Foreign Ministry discussion the Minister said that the view taken by West German trade unions that we could cope with the technical challange with the 35-hour week at the same pay as for a 40-hour week was fantastic.

The idea of "more pay for less work" would make us uncompetitive and would harm West Germany's chances to compete with high technology.

There are many reasons why West German scientific knowledge has been comparatively slow, compared with Amnerica and Japan, in turning to new products. An "anti-technology" feeling has grown up, partly because of prosperity and a sateity with material things. This feeling is behind the objection to nuclear power stations and the productivity of modern industry.

Anti-technological views are coupled with irrational fears for the future and horrors of the end of the world.

This is all to be found in the Greens' camp with the "No thanks" campaigns that are against the new technology.

But even with this background there are no causes for pessimism or resignation. The future for West German, European, technology looks much better than the prophets of doom would suppose. The reproach that West Germany is falling behind technologically has not been mildly accepted by the West Germans. Dispassionate analyses by experts, commissioned by the Foreign Ministry, prove this. it lies in our own hands to master the future, despite those who would panic or go in for self-flagellation.

Wolfgang Höpker

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 18 May 1984)

Tokyo fair put paid to critics — Lambsdorff

West Germany's industrial exhibition in Tokyo was successful and this has silenced the critics and carpers.

The exhibition was much needed and long overdue. The considerable expense and the efforts put in to staging it were well worth the effort.

The exhibition showed the way or greater efforts for West German industry in the Japanese market. Over 900,000 people went to the exhibition including 100,000 specialists, and it is hoped that the exhibition did a lot to improve, and correct, the country's image in Japan. It is not so easy now to talk of the German disease.

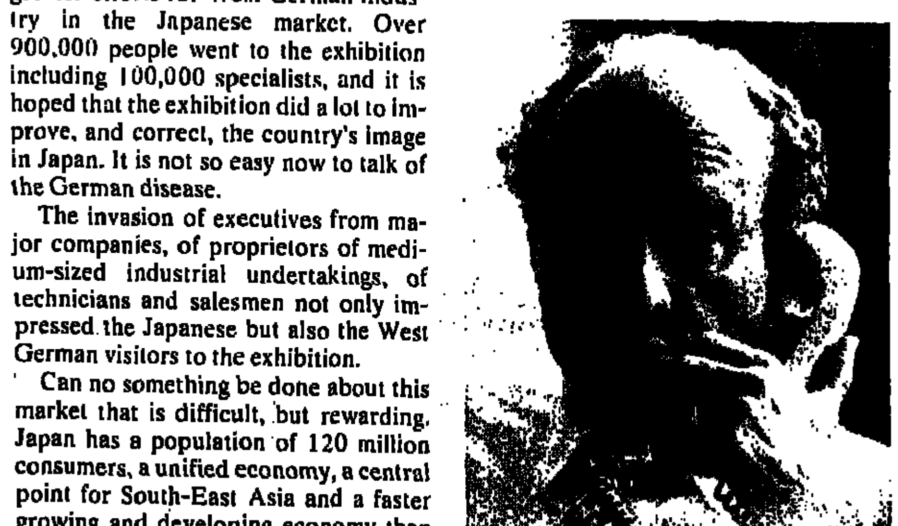
The invasion of executives from major companies, of proprietors of medium-sized industrial undertakings, of technicians and salesmen not only impressed the Japanese but also the West German visitors to the exhibition.

Can no something be done about this market that is difficult, but rewarding. Japan has a population of 120 million consumers, a unified economy, a central point for South-East Asia and a faster growing and developing economy than anywhere else in the world.

It is to be hoped thatthe fourteen days in Japan do not just become a fond memory. it is well known that Japan, after the exhibition, is a difficult, unusual market with many national peculiarities.

Despite recent Japanese moves to relax import regulations West German exports will still find it tough.

West German businessmen in Tokyo saw that a great deal of patience was needed, but they also saw that for those who were prepared to put in long-term





Economic Affairs Minister Otto Graf Lambsdorff, who wrote this article for ***Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt***

(Photo: Sven Simon)

efforts there were better opportunities than anywhere else in the world.

The Japanese will continue to be fierce competitors of ours, and in many technological sectors it will be hard to beat them. But it would be stupid so to concentrate on the myth of their industry as to assume that they are unbeatable.

It was particularly startling to see how they had used new technology to develop new, salable products.

Japanese industriousness, Japanese productivity and their loyalty to their firm or company are the plus points for their international competitivity. They have here qualities that no European industrial nation possesses.

In the long term we can compete if we do not have to contend with developments that make competiting all the more difficult such as shortened working time that is not related to greater productivity.

The Japanese, who work 45 hours per week, have less health cover and only half the holidays that West Germans enjoy, cannot understand that working time debate. It can only do the Japanese some good.

Did the Social Democrat politicians who went to the exhibition in Tokyo not see this?

North Rhine-Westphalia Premier Johannes Rau criticised me for talking in Tokyo of the dangers of the 35-hour week for the same pay. That should be a domestic dispute and not aired abroad, he said. I fear that he did not take in a lot that he saw in Japan.

The Japanese challenge, in any case in the major companies, is based on an organisation of labour and work productivity that we cannot ever hope to meet with a shortened working time.

And another thing that could be learned from Tokyo. Their politicians did not have much to say about this because it was against their political line.

Otto Graf Lambsdorff

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 11 May 1984)

■ AVIATION

A small bright patch seen in clouds at air show

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

The aircraft industry is going through a rough patch. But the Hanover air show, which itself has a future under threat, took place in an atmosphere that was not all bleakness.

The run up to the show was overshadowed by threats of demonstrations against military exhibits just as they were two years ago by small groups of militants.

Worldwide,the aerospace industry is taking a turn for the better.

In the first quarter of 1984 the number of passengers handled at German airports, including Hanover, was higher than in the same period last year.

Air cargo improved worldwide in the second half of 1983, with percentage growth rates in double figures in some instances. Mainly in air cargo international airlines began to make profits worth mentioning again.

They weren't enough to offset accumulated losses. Overall, airlines were still in the red. But this year international civil aviation hopes to make an overall profit for the first time since the late 1970s.

International air cargo and business passenger traffic on routes regularly served are not alone in increasing. So, it seems, is air traffic by executive jet.

Orders placed for new aircraft in this category have certainly increased, and aircraft manufacturers were as hard hit by the slump as anyone else.

The Hanover air show is a market place and barometer of general aviation, including executive and private aircraft, a sector in which US manufacturers predominate.

It is not a uniform market, and trends vary by sector. The recession continues for small, relatively inexpensive, single-engined sports aircraft. It persists all over the West but is particularly marked in Germany for tax reasons.

There is competition to interest pilots who fly strictly for fun: competition that cuts the cost of flying as a hobby and makes it almost as adventurous as in the early days of aviation.

Ultra-lightweight aircraft, a combination of glider airframe and the lightest of lightweight engines, have gained a foothold in the market in Germany and elsewhere.

Cessna, the leading manufacturer of general aircraft with 50 per cent of the largest Western market, North America, is feeling the pinch. So are Piper, Beech and others.

Cessna's assembly lines are to shut down for an initial three months as a result. But this slump is more than offset by brisker sales of executive jets and touring aircraft.

The Helitruck, an air transporter built by the German Agency for Technical Cooperation and Helitrans, a New York firm, cruises at 140mph over short hauls. It combines the principles of aircraft, helicopter and airship and was on show at Hanover

(Photo: AP)

In this sector prices have increased by 20 per cent on average over the past two years even though most aircraft in this category at Hanover differed little technically from the models on show last time.

Companies that buy aircraft of their own are opting for jets or turboprop machines because they are faster and less expensive to run. But the initial cost is much higher.

Aircraft sales in the United States in January and February 1983 were 50 per cent higher in number than in the first two months of this year.

Exports were 100 per cent higher in unit terms. But turnover may still be substantially higher this year in view of the trends outlined.

Varied trends are also reported in the markets for regional commercial aircraft, a sector which, technically speaking, overlaps with the executive jet market. A number of models sell in both markets.

Regional aviation has lately skyrocketed in the United States, which will have come as no surprise to the trade.

In America it does more than merely ferry passengers to international airports and air services, whereas in Europe restrictive policies prevent expansion.

Deresriction is making slow headway, especially in Germany, and that certainly helps to account for the difference in demand for aircraft to run regional services.

In the United States demand in this category is estimated at 140 aircraft a year, and demand elsewhere outside the East Bloc amounts to roughly the same again.

In this sector Dornier, one of Germany's two leading aerospace manufacturers, is doing well in keenly contested world markets.

The short-haul Do 228 is selling briskly, especially in Third World countries. Sales and orders have totalled 105 units within a fairly short period, and India is to manufacture the Do 228 under licence.

Helicopters, the third mainstay on show at Hanover, are selling well and undoubtedly have splendid prospects.

Civil and commercial demand has been estimated in the tens of thousands, and even if such estimates are exaggerated, the outlook remains good.

It is based on the interest shown by commercial clients in buying company helicopters rather than conventional aircraft for business use.

German and European manufacturers went to Hanover with a slight feeling of uplift even though their order books don't look at all good.

Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm's Johannes Schäffler, in charge of Airbus construction at MBB, has lately had bad news to break to the company's Hamburg works.

The number of people on the payroll would have to be further reduced and more jobs axed via rationalisation in order to boost productivity, he said. MBB's payroll would shrink by about 3,000 to 32,000.

The aerospace industry currently employs about 72,000 people in the Federal Republic of Germany. But the basic Airbus model, the A 300, is no longer being manufactured in past numbers. There just isn't the demand.

The present target is an output of three a month. A few years ago there were going to be eight Airbuses a month leaving the finishing sheds in Toulouse.

Boeing in contrast have announced they will need to hire more staff to meet demand: an extra 8,000 men and not 4,000. Otherwise they will be unable to meet delivery deadlines.

Boeing are still selling the 737 and, to a lesser extent, the 747 Jumbo. Sales of the Boeing 757 and 767 are also brisk.

The British, French and German governments have invested billions in taxpayers' money in their bid to ensure that Boeing doesn't have commercial airliner markets entirely to itself.

Bonn has pledged fresh billions to get the latest and smallest version of the Airbus, the A 320, airborne.

Yet Herr Schäffler told his company's Hamburg workforce it was unrealistic to expect the A 320 to solve all problems.

The fresh billions invested in the Airbus programme would merely prevent even more redundancies. There can be no question of the A 320 getting out of the red any more than its two predecessors.

For the A 300 the break-even point has risen ever higher. Bavarian Prime Minister Franz Josef Strauss as supervisory board chairman of Deutsche Airbus GmbH originally said the A 300 would break even when 450 were sold.

Then this figure was doubled. It has since seemingly vanished way up high in the sky. Sales so far number 405. The tale will probably be repeated with the A 320.

Dieter Tasch

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 19 May 1984)

■ THE ARTS

Chinese literature begins to turn over a new leaf

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Sinologists from Europe, America and China, including Hong Kong and Taiwan, met in Cologne for a four-day workshop on contemporary Chinese literature.

It was at Deutsche Welle, the Voice of Germany short-wave radio station, and was said to be the first get-together of its kind.

Which is probably a justified claim, since contemporary literature was agreed to be Chinese writing since 1979.

That was the year China was opened to political and economic influence from the West, and since 1979 there has been a thaw in the arts.

Contemporary Chinese writing is virtually unknown in Germany. Even Sinologists differ on whether what has been published since 1949 merits consideration as literature.

Modern Chinese writing has long been reputed to be purely propaganda literature.

It seemed to be written for the much-vaunted Chinese masses, and foreigners read Chinese novels to learn something about conditions in China, quietly setting aside aesthetic considerations.

Over the past five years the position of writers and writing in China has changed completely, prompting Helmut Martin of the Ruhr University in Bochum and Wolfgang Kubin of the Free University in West Berlin to hold the Cologne workshop.

The changes were outlined by David Goodman of Newcastle University. Writers were previously seen mainly as political artists; they were now beginning to describe their private experiences.

A topic such as love was no longer taboo. All clashes used to be attributed to class conflict; there was now room for personal problems.

The main characters in fiction had been either good or bad. Average, even vacillating characters were now portrayed. That had previously been decried as bourgeois.

Chinese language experts predominated in Cologne. Specialists in Chinese literature were hopelessly outnumbered.

Speakers quoted modern poetry and prose at length, giving summaries pages long. But there was little interpretation and still less evaluation.

Yet some speakers recalled that it was not just a matter of the Chinese language but of Chinese literature. They included Anne Wedell and Susanne Posberg, both from Denmark.

Their papers on modernism and the depiction of love in Chinese short stories were excellent. So was Wolfgang Kubin's paper on Zhan Kankang's novel The Northern Lights.

There was heated debate nonetheless whenever anyone voiced serious doubts as to the literary quality of the works cited, as did Joseph Lau from Taiwan, who is currently teaching at the University of Wisconsin.

He claimed, with every intention of being provocative, that contemporary Chinese literature was provincial, too self-centred and couldn't be understood by anyone who wasn't well briefed on events in China today.

What really mattered, he was told, was that certain topics were allowed to be raised again. The means employed were a secondary consideration.

Debate concentrated on sociological rather than literary matters. Young Sinologists self-confidently said they mainly read contemporary Chinese writing for its historic interest.

Their aim was to learn more about the position of intellectuals or divorced women or the rural population.

At the end of the four days of debate, after 30-odd papers and lively discussions, a note of moderation was called for and sounded.

In his closing remarks Kubin noted that Sinology's origins lay in classical philology. Research and translation were called for; everything else was dismissed as speculation.

Interpretation was thus new ground for most Sinologists at the workshop. It was high time they, just like specialists in Germanic and Romance language and literature, dealt with literary theory.

Yet major headway had been made inasmuch as nearly everyone at the workshop spoke Chinese. It had been one of the few Sinological congresses at which Chinese had ranked equal in importance with, say, German or English.

They had earlier had to accept the disappointing no-show by the two members of the Chinese Writers' Association who were expected to take part.

Had it not been for Huang Wenhua, a Chinese woman student of German at Cologne, there would have been no-one from mainland China at the workshop to discuss contemporary Chinese writing there.

For safety's sake a dozen Chinese writers have been invited to attend the next workshop, which is scheduled to be held in West Berlin next year.

Simone Hamm

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 12 May 1984)

Korean art and the reasons behind the Pottery War

An exhibition of Korean art shown at the British Museum will be in Hamburg from June to September and in Cologne from October to January.

It features an artistic world little known in Europe, a world related to those of China and Japan and in many respects their peer.

Korean pottery is perhaps best known in the West, with Bernard Leach in England and Gerd Knäpper in Germany singing its praises this century and modelling their own work on it.

Korean ceramics was admired much earlier by the Japanese, who invaded Korea in the 16th century and carried off not only many of the finest vases and ceramic receptacles but also hundreds of Korean potters.

To this day that particular invasion is popularly known in Korea as the Pottery War.

Buddhist paintings of past centuries suffered much the same fate. They were so keenly admired by the Chinese and Japanese that most were either bought or carried off as booty.

Yet Korea has managed to retain much of its artistic heritage, especially in the royal graves, discovered mainly in this century, many as recently as in the 1970s.

The Koreans have also sought to buy back what was taken away over the centuries.

Korea has taken over much from China, including half the vocabulary of the Korean language, its architecture and, to begin with, its sculpture too.

Japan has always been the borrower, and not just in pottery. The Koreans took Buddhism to Japan in much the same way as Irish monks took Christianity to early mediaeval Britain and Central Europe.

The first full bloom of Korean art coincides with the era when most of Europe was caught in a trough of barbarity, the 8th century AD.

A marvellous crown on show at the touring exhibition testifies to this era. Made of wrought gold and jade, it stands 27cm tall and is like an exotic flower.

It is classified as one of Korea's national treasures, of which Seoul has allowed a surprising number to be seen in Britain and Germany.

In painting many works seem to be fleetingly thrown at the canvas in a manner similar to work we know from China and Japan. A four-square wise old man sitting meditating on a rock is a case in point.

More recent portraits dating back to the 17th and 18th centuries have drawn pantics' comparisons with Dürer and Holbein for their analytical precision.

A self-portrait by a Korean painter, something unusual in the Far East and maybe indirectly attributable to Jesuit influence, is strangely reminiscent of Rembrandt in facial expression.

Much Korean art cannot be transported. It includes wall paintings from the royal graves of women in long, gaily-striped skirts.

More is known only from manuscripts. An 8th century present made by King Kyongdok to a Chinese emperor is described in the exhibition catalogue.

It testifies to artistic skills and ideas reminiscent of Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tales:

"A mountain of gaily-coloured linen three metres tall, with water courses, trees, flowers and palaces, temples, temple dancers and monks, and even tiny sandalwood Buddhas adorned with gold and jewels.

"When the wind blew, the Mountain of 1,000 Buddhas began to move and play music."

H. G. Alexander

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 2 May 1984)

Sound of fading film stars at a collective taxi

Several thousand Turkish families paid up to DM60 a head to see an evening of Turkish entertainment at the Hanns-Martin-Schleyer-Halle in Stuttgart. They had read about it in the local Turkish newspapers.

It was more like a bazaar than a concert, with people coming and going, rustling in the aisles and the stalls and what, to unaccustomed ears, was wailing from the stage.

Astute managers had assembled a number of Turkish film stars past their cinematic peak but who, boosted by the latest sound amplification techniques, were sent on stage as singers.

They formed a mixed bill featuring a handful of better-known stars from the Arabesque world and were sent on a tour of several German and Swiss cities.

In the 1950s, when the Turks devised the *dolmus*, or collective taxi, to counteract the shortage of public transport, a tear-jerking kind of entertainment known as dolmus music developed.

To begin with, viewed sociologically, it was more a kind of music that suited the taste of dolmus taxi-drivers than that of their passengers.

But woe betide the passenger who asked the driver to turn down or switch off the wailing, self-pitying cassette. The driver was most insulted and often stopped and told the culprit to get out.

So it was hardly surprising that taxis and long-distance buses made dolmus music widely popular. Growing social hardship may well have been a contributory factor.

The Hanns-Martin-Schleyer-Halle was certainly transformed into an enormous collective taxi on the evening of the Turkish concert.

It formed part of the commercial side of the Turkish arts scene in Germany, a side that includes music and video cassettes.

The other side, the state-subsidised variety, was haplessly demonstrated in West Berlin, where the city invested DM200,000 and a fair amount of goodwill in a week-long festival of Turkish books and literary encounter between Germans and Turks.

It sadly lacked an overall concept. Hiring the International Congress Centre and housing invited writers in a five-star hotel were not enough to breathe life into the week's activities.

This was painfully apparent to the organisers even though they were reluctant to admit it. The German Writers' Association and Turkish writers in the Federal Republic were consulted so late in the day that there was little they could do to remedy matters.

The German Writers' Association backed down before the festival began and as soon as it was learnt that next to none of the 20 or so writers from Turkey who were invited to attend were either able or willing to take part.

In the end a mere four turned up, and they were on their own with Turkish writers living in Germany. There were no encounters between German and Turkish writers.

It was a makeshift programme testifying to the makeshift nature of arts facilities on offer to foreign residents.

The organisers may have claimed their exhibition of Turkish books at the International Congress Centre was the

Continued on page 12

■ THE ARTS

Festival piles circus onto film onto silicon chip

DEUTSCHES ALLGEMEINES SONNTAGSBLATT

Cultural events in the Recklinghausen Festival come in a varied package this year.

They include the Roncalli Circus and a screening of the cineaste's delight, the Russian silent film *The New Babylon* directed by Kozintsev/Trauberg with music, live, by Shostakovitch.

New films produced in West Germany are included.

There is also the Hungarian Csepel Folk Ensemble and a reading by Erich Fried, clowns and chansons by Hana Hegerovas and jokes from the Swiss cabaret performer Emil Steinberger, and a contribution dealing with the threat to the Olympic Games. Another handles the theme of the menacing chips that are part of the new technology.



Felix Nussbaum's 'Einsamkeit', (1942)

(Photos: Catalogue)

The problem of the shortened working week runs like red streak through this cultural event that has trade union backing.

An ensemble financed by IG Metall is giving a piece by Bert Brecht, written in 1948/1949, his critical reaction to a Norwegian play dealing with the Paris Commune of 1871, entitled *Die Tage der Commune*.

This Brecht play is seldom performed and was conceived as a justification for the building of the Wall and not as was previously believed for the foundation of the Berliner Ensemble.

The play, directed by Wolfgang Lichtenstein, shows how the enemies of the Commune were cut down to size: on the enormous stage old men with falsetto voices and actresses wearing masks of Thiers, Favres and Bismarck trip about.

The music between the scenes is from Hans Werner Henze, conducted by Wolfgang Florey, although the music that Hans Eisler originally composed was more tan good enough.

Only a few of the scenes give any kind of shock, despite the obvious sense of engagement in some of them and the finely worked details. There is a poetic citizen's celebration on the Rue Pigalle in the shadow of defeat. There is the last meeting of the central committee, that brings up the recurrent dispute of the fight to win freedom that might bring with it the danger of losing democracy.

In the foyer there is a photographic show of the working class which is entitled *Reise Proletariat und große Maschinerie*, a joint venture between the City Art Gallery in Erlangen and the Art Society of Ingolstadt, an excellent display of the working class from the early days of photography to the present.

Under the shocking pictures there are photographs of shot communardes in coffins. This was an attempt to give punch to Brecht's unfinished work as was done with such success in Bochum.

The main exhibition at the Ruhr Festival deals with a West German, European, problem child — the forest. The title of the exhibition is like something taken from Eichendorff or Marie Mareks, *Wer hat dich, du schöner Wald...*

This exhibition in the Recklinghausen City Art Gallery, open until 24 June, has the sub-title *Master works from two centuries*, including Caspar David Friedrich and Spitzweg, the impresionists and the expressionists, Magritte and Max Ernst, and, of course, contemporary painters, who have dealt with the end of the forest, such as Peter Berndt, Matthias Koeppel, H.A.Schult and Robin Page.

This exhibition with its variety in selection is the high point of this year's Ruhr Festival. It is connected with the current wage dispute, sharpens the sense for more or just tedious freedom and depicts the forest, nature, as an essential part of humnan identity.

Wolfgang Ruf

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 20 May 1984)



'Save our Woods', a placard by Hans Erni, on show at Recklinghausen



Follies and aggressions in the fog with Pina Bausch

(Photo: Gert Weigelt)

Knack of leaving an audience with its breath intact

As in previous years the Pina Bausch evening at the Wuppertal Dance Theatre did not have a title.

Neither Pina Bausch nor her dramatic director, Raimund Hoghe, felt that one was necessary.

The form of the work was the creation of an "epic" drama in which the sociological and ideological message of the play was underlined by producing in the audience a sense of detachment or "alienation".

The various scenes are strung together in a linear story line with inevitability. The scenes are arbitrary, interchangeable and equivalent in value. And so long as creative forces can manage this it works. If the inspiration is inadequate then it can be seen how helpful it is to have an interpretive whole to deal with.

The new Wuppertal Pina Bausch production is a typical example of the problem presented by the epic theatre. The first part is fortunate, although not the best, that Pina Bausch has ever produced. The second part, after the interval, just as long, is just nothing. There was nothing new to see in either part. As before the subject of the piece is the ordinary person in day-to-day life. In previous years behind the representation of reality there was always the determination to analyse personal and social backgrounds. This has the caustic bite of a critical awareness, the cry of tortured and torturing humanity. Today everything is more moderate and mild and if done well it gains in entertainment value and is of worth to consumers. Very rarely does it take one's breath away.

The ensemble's ability for portrayal and creativity is extensive. Form, tradition are prohibited. Self-expression is the order of the day. It is often, like a contemplation of the navel, which the narcissim of dancing turns into a bogeyman.

The stage, newly laid with peat, shows, as ever people today, in their intimate moments and feelings, in their follies and aggressions, in their lack of social relationships and their nostalgia, but nevertheless not without a touch of humour.

There are violent scenes of aggression in groups, set to informally performed music by Purcell or Mendelssohn. One brutal sequence on a dimly-lit stage gets under the skin.

There are a few performers who are good. The French dancer Anne Martin is excellent in word and movement, demonstrating the prototype of an ideal body, and ideal person.

Or the brilliant Nazareth Panadero, with nickel glasses, like an ancient Franconian lady teacher, highly effective, but full of self-confidence, full of knowledge.

Arthur Rosenfeld performs a wearing task. He runs dismayed round the stage, he goes round the auditorium, until he has got rid of all his aggressions. A breath-taking scene whose effect is heightened by a sudden break and the stopgap of boogie-woogie.

The piece also has a sport element for it will shortly be performed as a fringe event at the Los Angeles Olympics. There is diving and swimming into water that is not water but peat. The Ensemble does not spare itself.

Of the rest there is not much to say. There are plenty of set-scenes from old Pina Bausch productions.

For example, Jan Minarik, getting on in years is seen in swimming trunks, a cap on his head, his nose bound up with a cloth. He pulls one balloon after another out of his trunks, blows them up and lets them burst, just the beginning of a series of balloon sketches that are meant to be nothing but nonsense.

Helmut Scheier

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 17 May 1984)

■ PUBLIC SAFETY

Radioactive radiation: its sources, its advantages and its dangers

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

The smallest dose of radioactivity can cause cancer and affect the genes, scientists have long agreed. In spite of intensive research no-one has yet proved the radiation risk to be zero below a given level.

Radioactive material is increasingly used all over the world in medicine, research and atomic energy.

Benefits and drawbacks of radiation were dealt with in detail at the Sixth International Congress on Radiation Protection, at the International Congress Centre in West Berlin.

Roughly 1,000 experts from about 30 countries conferred on sources of radioactivity, their effect and way of providing protection from radiation.

Most of the radioactivity to which we are subjected cannot be reduced by technical or organisational measures. It is blowing in the wind, as it were, and hails from natural sources such as the soil and cosmic radiation.

This natural radiation varies widely in intensity from region to region. In the Federal Republic of Germany, for instance, it is high in the Black Forest, where there are uranium deposits.

But there is no cause for alarm, experts say. Even in a part of India where natural radiation is extremely high because of thorium in the soil no detrimental effect on man or animals has yet been observed.

In the Federal Republic the overall level of radiation to which people are exposed is 0.2 rem, a unit of radiation dosage (abbreviated from: *röntgen* equivalent *man* or *mammal*).

The main source of "artificial" radiation is and remains the medical profession.

Although it is acknowledged that even the smallest dose entails a slight risk, almost all countries have a mandatory ceiling for radioactivity to which people may be exposed.

These levels were based on recommendations made by the International Commission on Radiation Protection, Professor Alexander Kaul reminded the congress.

Professor Kaul, who chaired the Berlin gathering, works at the radiation hygiene unit of the Federal Health Research Establishment.

In 1954, he recalled, the commission had said the dosage of all kinds of radiation should be kept to as low a level as possible because certain effects were irreversible and cumulative.

With time its views were modified, and the present recommendations were made in 1977. They comprise three main points:

First, the benefits must be greater than the hazards in handling radioactive material. This can be demonstrated with very little doubt from case to case in radiation therapy as a medical treatment.

In other sectors, such as atomic energy, political and economic assessments of the benefit prevail, as the intensive public debate on the subject shows.

Second, "all exposure to radiation must be kept as low as reasonably possible in relation to economic and social factors." In other words, radiation levels need not be reduced if the cost would be overwhelming.

Third, exposure must still not exceed the levels recommended. They are five rem per annum for people who work with radioactivity and 0.5 rem for the population as a whole.

An equal dosage of different varieties of radiation can cause varying levels of damage. These differences are incorporated in the unit of measurement, the rem.

Professor Kaul added that "the concept of risk also works on the assumption that prescribed levels are no longer the upper limit of what is permissible.

"They are the lower level of what is no longer acceptable. In other words, prescribed levels must not be regarded as the borderline between safety and hazard."

How are prescribed levels arrived at? An American expert, Professor Sinclair, outlined the procedure as follows:

"Prescribed levels at work are set in such a way that workers are not expected to run a higher cancer risk than others who work at comparable jobs, such as at coal-fired power stations."

In the United States the overall risk of dying of cancer was between 16 and 20 per cent. For people who were exposed to radiation at work the risk was 0.125 per cent higher.

A British expert, Sir Edward Pochin, took a fresh look at the criteria on which risk was based. It was currently assessed in terms of reduced life expectancy. Why not take days off work into account too?.

Many effects of cancer resulted in temporary or permanent impairment of the ability to go about a normal job. Yet this criterion, he admitted, failed to take the subjective suffering of cancer victims into account.

Much more is now known about the effect of exposure to radioactivity than, say, about chemicals as a health hazard, the congress agreed. But further research is still required.

Professor Giovanni Silini of the scientific advisory committee on radiation to the United Nations said the effect of radiation could be affected in combination with other factors (chemical, biological and physical). Too little was known about such patterns.

There are also gaps in our knowledge about "internal" exposure to radiation such as occurs when radioactive substances gain access to the body via inhalation, food or open wounds.

The congress had demonstrated, Professor Kaul said, that much more had been learnt of late about the behaviour of such substances in the body and about their enrichment and excretion.

This internal exposure cannot yet be quantified, but inferences as to its level can be drawn from factors such as the nature of radionuclides and their activity.

Radiation protection at work was the main problem dealt with at the congress. It included experience gained with improved instruction and training of medical staff and technical improvements to the equipment used.

Microelectronics, for instance, has made a world of difference. It can be used to limit exposure to radiation to a very short period in X-ray work, the X-ray image being converted into electronic signals and stored electronically.

The doctor can then retrieve the X-ray whenever he wants to examine it at leisure, while the source of radiation has long been switched off.

Methods of measuring radiation exposure have also been greatly improved of late. In particular, they are more exact. The counters people who work with radioactivity must constantly wear have grown much lighter in weight and handier.

When specific levels are exceeded they automatically warn the wearer with a buzz. There are even dosimeters in cluster form for measuring spot radiation, while evaluation of readings has been automated.

Radiation protection at work, the congress concluded, has been put on a sound scientific footing. Findings and concepts must merely be put to practical workday use to a greater extent.

A looseleaf troubleshooter manual in German may be a first step in this direction. It deals with practical radiation protection issues in step-by-step fashion, says Professor Jacobs of Jülich Nuclear Research Establishment.

The manual is to be translated into several other languages.

Marion Kern

(Der Tagesspiegel, 12 May 1984)

Continued from page 10

largest ever held outside Turkey, but the public didn't turn up to visit it, and they can hardly be blamed.

As West Berlin Arts Senator Volker Hassemer noted at the opening ceremony, with statistics to back up his claim, Turkish residents are among the keenest users of the city's public libraries.

Beyond the bounds of the commercial and state-subsidised arts scene in Germany, foreign residents have for years sought to run cultural activities of their own.

Turkish residents have developed a distinctive Turkish literature of their own, with writers in both Turkish and, among second-generation Turks in Germany, German.

There are also, and have been for years, music and drama groups, German-Turkish bookshops, publishing houses and so on. Such activities, which are clearly desirable from the viewpoint of social pluralism, can only last or lead to syntheses if institutional integration is assured, as in the case of the Turkish drama company at the *Schaubühne* in Berlin.

Foreign residents must also be given a suitable weighting in the allocation of arts grants. Foreign resident writers and artists see this as a major opportunity of arriving at mutual enrichment and syntheses in cultural plurality.

Yet except in Berlin and Hamburg they have so far been totally ignored in arts handouts, which prevents institutional integration and condemns hundreds of thousands of foreign residents to such appalling pseudo-artistic spectacles as the Turkish night in Stuttgart.

Yüksel Pazarkaya

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 3 May 1984)

■ MEDICINE

Alcoholism at epidemic level—doctor

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Alcoholics usually only diagnosed when they go to a doctor or hospital with something else wrong with them, doctors were told at a meeting in Aachen.

The chairman of the West German medical association, Karsten Vilmar, told the conference that the misuse of alcohol had become a national epidemic.

The cost to health was enormous. He pointed out that now that so many classical infectious diseases had been overcome there were other maladies in our society caused by educational drawbacks or just plain lack of education.

It was suggested that perhaps the high demands made by society harmed health, causing one illness after another or several illnesses at the same time, and every time with the idea in mind that further medicines could be taken and that more medical treatment was to hand.

He said that there was another change in society that must be considered — the increasing number of illnesses caused by people themselves, particularly the misuse of alcohol, drugs and medicines.

Karsten Vilmar said that it was estimated that there were between one and a half million to two million people in the Federal Republic who were tobacco dependent.

Last year DM25 billion was paid out for tobacco and DM45 billion for alcoholic drinks. This figure alone represents seventy per cent of the DM100 billion that was paid out for health purposes by the state health insurance schemes.

A few statistics were given at the conference by the participants. Professor Feuerlein said that it cost about DM21,000 on average to cure an alcoholic in an addicts clinic. And this, the Professor said, was relatively low when it was considered what society had to pay for an alcoholic who was not treated.

A third of all murders and two-thirds of all assaults that resulted in death occured whilst under the influence of drink, according to Hans Werner Hamacher, a senior officer in the North Rhine-Westphalia crime squad.

Professor Poser said that the number of people dependent on medicines was probably far greater than assumed. Estimates gave between 150,000 and 750,000. The position was very vague, but it has been suggested that the real figure was between 150,000 and 750,000.

Investigations of the relationship between alcohol and drugs have shown that a new development is taking place. Dr Hünnekens said that many addicts were able to stretch out their supplies by taking other medicaments, often prescribed by a doctor.

Professor Poser made the point that a considerable number of alcoholics also misused medicines.

Karsten Vilmar in his opening address said that the billions that were spent on addicts, millions that had to be borne by ordinary citizens could be saved when it was possible to influence people's behaviour.

Explanations of the damage that drugs could do to a person did not achieve very much. This has been known for a long time, but citizens did not draw the consequences from this. He said "They are health consumers. They consume, as it were, not only their own health but the health and the working abilities of others, and so they cause harm to the community as whole."

Like the Minister for Family and Health Affairs, Heiner Geissler, he spoke of the recent affair that involved euthenasia. He condemned the actions of Professor Julius Hackethal, who allowed cyanide to be administered to a 69-year-old patient who suffered from terminal cancer.

Karsten Vilmar said that legalising euthenasia was in direct contrast to the ethical duties of the medical profession.

He said that in hopeless situations when a patient was on the deathbed and that further treatment would obviously be of little avail a doctor's duty was to stand by the patient and do everything possible to relieve suffering.

He said that the doctor is not and should never be the judge over life and death. The idea of giving a fatal medicine to shorten life should be totally rejected.

"Homicide and assisting in homicide is contrary to medical ethics and is thus justifiably an offence."

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 17 May 1984)

A shot in the arm for a wheeze in the throat

Breathing troubles accounted for a third of the cases of absence from work due to illness in the industrialised counties, and every second patient attending a doctor's surgery.

A third of these patients suffered from the common cold, a further third from inflammation of the throat, the larynx or the tonsils. The last third suffered from the 'flu, bronchitis or a lung inflammation.

Most common cause for a doctor to make a home visit, after infection of the respiratory ducts, is inflammation of the urinary passage.

Swiss and West German doctors discussed the question of whether infections of the respiratory ducts and the urinary passage could or could not be treated with antibiotics at this year's internists' congress held in Wiesbaden.

Antibiotics are highly effective medicaments that can hinder the growth of, or dispose of, bacteria, fungus and other micro-organisms

They are effective weapons to combat infectious diseases such as diphtheria, tuberculosis or typhus, and they are vitally important in dealing with "nosocomia", the germs that can be picked up in a hospital, creating infections that affect between 500,000 to 800,000 patients from among the ten million who attend hospitals in West Germany annually. Approximately 30,000 of these patients die from this infection per year.

Antibiotics that have been effective against virus infections have until now had no effect.

The best success in combatting virus illnesses such as polio, smallpox, measles, mumps or German measles has been improved hygiene and vaccination. The common cold and the 'flu are virus illnesses that can be tackled by antibiotics. It is possible to be immunised against influenza but not against the common cold.

Inflammation of the throat and bronchitis are usually caused by viruses, recognised by dry coughing without sputum. Only about twenty per cent of throat infections are caused by bacteria.

Professor H. Stalder Liestal told the Wiesbaden conference that in cases of doubt doctors should wait two days. In this time it can be clarified if the doctor is dealing with a simple inflammation of the throat or the onset of a more serious illness, for example glandular fever, that is also an illness caused by viruses and which can be dangerous when treated by antibiotics. The position is quite different when the inflammation of the throat is linked to tonsillitis. This is always caused by bacteria, streptocci, which can be tackled by antibiotics, Professor W. Stille from Frankfurt explained.

Inflammation of the tonsils should always be treated with antibiotics in order to avoid complications such as abcesses or rheumatic fever. Tonsillitis should promptly be dealt with by antibiotics, penicillin. If this is not done a more serious illness may develop and has to be diagnosed.

Eighty per cent of bronchitis cases are caused by virus infection and should not, then, be treated with antibiotics. The minute bacterial bronchides can remain, when, for instance, a young, healthy person is being treated, who do not smoke. When older people with chronic bronchitis have to be treated, who are smokers, the healing processes can be helped along by antibiotics.

Unfortunately a virus infection of the respiratory passage can be linked to a bacterial infection, particularly if the patient has another illness or suffers from considerable stress.

In certain conditions a stopped up nose with watery secretions can mean a sinus infection. A cough caused by a virus produces a greenish sputum. A virus infection superimposed on the bacterial infection makes the illness much worse. Antibiotics can be administered to deal with the bacteria part of the illness, but it should be remembered that treatment by antibiotics reduces the body's powers of resistance.

Urinary canal infections, contrary to respiratory infections, are, in 90 per cent of cases, caused by bacteria .

Professor Stille said that when dealing with urinary passage infections in women over the past few years he had come across a "sensational discovery". Instead of an eight-day course of antibiotics he had found that a single dose of antibiotics had been sufficent to effect a cure in 90 per cent of cases within one to three days. If this does not work then a complication has set in that must be diagnosed.

But this method of treatment only works with women. Urinary passage infections in men requires the usual two to six week course of antibiotic treatment.

Doctors in West Germany have about a dozen antibiotics that are effective against 90 per cent of infections. For the other ten per cent there are about twenty substances available. Doctors and patients have to wait, however, for the discovery of an anti-viral medicament.

Silvia Schattenfroh

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 12 May 1984)

Brain operation on world-wide TV hook-up

Several hundred scientists from all over the world watched on television this month as a surgeon removed a brain tumour from a patient at a hospital in Hanover.

They were able to see live through a tele-conference link-up as Professor Madjid Samii, got to work.

Professor Samii, who was in direct telephone contact with hospitals and universities in China, India, Egypt, Ecuador, Chile, Argentina, Brazil. America, Australia and several other countries commented on an hour-long film on an "Acusticus Neurinom" operation.

The operation involved the removal of a non-malignant tumour but which can produce withdrawal symptoms of various brain functions such as balance and hearing.

At the end of the film scientists could question Professor Samii on his methods.

Helmut Baumann, senior surgeon in the neuro-surgical unit said that if a growth is diagnosed in time, hearing can be saved.

Professor Samii has developed various surgical methods, and he is one of the few specialists who has succeeded in removing a tumour without affecting the patient's hearing. *dpa*

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 17 May 1984)

■ SOCIETY

New approach to how the law handles the young

When Hans-Christian Prestien hung up his judge's robes six months ago and appointed himself as "the children's advocate", he was on his own.

But since then,the club has grown to 125 members throughout Germany, and it is getting bigger.Prestien, a 39-year-old from Bielefeld,intends pioneering new approaches to legal jurisdiction.

For 13 years, he was a childrens court judge and the way decisions were made over children's heads affected him more and more.

Their fate was simply settled by lawyers.No one asked them what they thought or took them to one side to give them advice and support.He wants to change this.

"Children and adolescents involved in court processes are often given no help by their parents because they are fighting over custody or they are offenders themselves.

"So the children are simply, without further ado, exposed to the authorities, who decide on such issues as who can visit children's homes, taking children into care,sending them to homes or to prison.

"Just like adults, they need an adviser who understands their language and needs and can express them in court."

So he started the organisation, Advocate for the Child.The staff are specialists such as psychologists, remedial experts, social workers and lawyers. There are also interested lay people to support the aims and ideas of the judges.

The German society for the protection of children is also involved.

Prestien says the term "children's welfare" is often in Germany no more than a legal phrase because children involved in a family or guardianship dispute are not legally recognised as a party.

But these advocates for children must not comprise only lawyers.He says that only a few lawyers are in a position to identify with the thoughts and emotions of children who are virtual strangers.

He says it would be ideal if, for every child who came before the courts, a team of advisers to represent its rights and needs. Prestien had all too often seen how much one wrong decision could influence the life of a young person.

About 75 per cent of young people who appeared before the court were, in his experience, from broken homes.

It was not good for ther welfare of children he said, when, for example, parents involved in a custody dispute could use the police to pull children out of foster homes.

Attempts are now being made to develop regional organisations to which advice teams could be sent. But barely had Prestien got started when he ran up against a legal wall: the State prosecutor's office in Bielefeld began inquiries in case laws covering legal advice had been broken. The grounds were that in Germany, only practising lawyers can dispense legal advice.

Prestien: "This is a relict from the Third Reich. It didn't apply in the Weimar Republic. And it also means that the weak in society remain without advice."

But it is exactly for the weak that the organisation wants to strengthen itself. People throughout the country can telephone either their local branch or the headquarters in Bielefeld. It doesn't matter if the query concerns custody rights, adoption, rights of foster children, access rights or to do with court sentencing.

The organisation sees itself as an intermediary between the courts and the people affected by court decisions. If talks within a family are needed, specialists should enlist the help of on-the-spot voluntary help.

"Above all," says Prestien,"we want to make the public aware of the extent of injustice to children. We want to strengthen the position of children through increasing awareness of the topic, bringing it to the attention of politicians and thereby influence legal politics."

There have been some alarming developments. Some 500 children a year kill

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Common room, common problems . . . life in Göttingen open prison (Photo: [illegible])

Youth gets second chance in a prison without walls

Torsten is in his comfortable room.Together with a friend he leafs through the post.They want to know how many girls have answered Torsten's newspaper advertisement for a pen friend.

He says: "It's not so bad being inside when you look around here." He laughs ironically and indicates the pile of letters.

Torsten is one of 145 in a prison without walls or barbed wire. It is an open prison in Göttingen.

The building, on the outskirts of the city, was a children's home until August 1982, when it was taken over intact,including some of the staff, by the Lower Saxony Ministry of Justice. So it is better equipped than any comparable institution in the country.

It has single room in small living units, a communal room with open fire, a sports hall and sports fields, a swimming pool, a cellar for hobbies and do-it-yourself and, not least, highly qualified educated and technical staff from the former home.

The head of the jail, Hansjürgen Eger, says: "Our aim is not to make them serve out sentences.It is to compensate for shortcomings."

Criminologist Professor Dr Heinz Schöch says the idea is the best so far for the rehabilitation of youths.

A strongly staffed, extensive social education programme and a social-therapy training course appear to be good external prerequisites for a basis for "normal upbringing".

One inmate says: "Better four weeks here than one in a normal jail." He spent a month in a closed reception prison to test his suitability for open prison. Barely 15 per cent are ruled out because of violence or because the prognosis is bad.

Those who fail must serve out their terms in a closed prison, and what they can expect there Professor Schöch describes: "Atrocities including torture and sexual misuse by other prisoners are no rare occurrence." In Göttingen's open prison, such occurrences are the exception.

Main problems have turned out to be something else. It isn't possible for the inmates to find jobs or apprenticeships outside the prison. The prison's own training resources are used to the maximum, but that cannot cover everybody.

Torsten is one of those who has no idea of what he might do. Many of the boys do find places outside the prison in school or a training place. Inside others are taught metalwork, woodwork, painting, brick-laying and gardening by the staff.

In addition there are preparatory courses, including theory, for various careers.

Herr Eger, a lawyer and criminologist, is satisfied with progress so far. The low number of escapes tends to back him up. Barely three per cent in the first year. Yet all there is is a light at the entrance to the area stating that comings and goings are only allowed according to plan.

At the beginning, the local people were skeptical about the project. But their fears have been allayed. And the police say that it is rare for a youth who is outside the grounds to be picked up for an offence.

Professor Schöch thinks Lower Saxony should extend its pioneering role in this field. In other *Länder* only one in [illegible] of youthful ofenders was in an open prison. In Lower Saxony, already 40 per cent were.

He says: "I see no risk in giving even more youths this chance."

However, one critic of the system maintains that the more open prisons there are, the greater the tendency to use them would become. The risk then, so this argument went, was that it could become an exercise in futility: "Most of the youths in Göttingen could just as well be left with their liberty."

Matthias Brunner

(Kieler Nachrichten, 5 May 1984)

Crisis centre to prevent child suicides

More than 1,600 people under the age of 25 decided last year that suicide was the only solution to their problems.

One who decided to end it all, but didn't, is a 15-year-old Berlin girl, Monika S. A teacher discovered during a talk what she was thinking and then a Berlin institution admitted her and managed to get her to change her mind.

The social work was performed by staff at Haus Neuhland, a centre only recently established in the Berlin suburb of Wilmersdorf especially for such cases.

The centre has eight social workers and therapists and gets an annual grant of a million marks from the Federal Family Ministry.

The staff believe that every suicide attempt is preceded by more or less perceivable signals which are all too often ignored or not taken seriously.

Statistics support this: among males between 15 and 25 years, suicide is the most common form of death after motor accidents. Among girls of the same age, it is the third most common form of death.

Federal Family Ministry figures say affairs of the heart are the main reason behind 64 per cent of suicides among the young. Family difficulties figured in 47 per cent of cases. Problems at work and school are behind 37 per cent.

The centre gets about 70 telephone calls a week.Some are for advice and others are emergency calls.

Staff find that the biggest single handicap is getting access to target groups.Project leader Michael Witte, an educationalist, says: "We are simply not well enough known."

Now the team wants to go to the schools and help teachers learn to identify warning signals among pupils.

In addition there is an emergency in-patient service where two staff members can handle crisis cases day and night until patients get to grip with themselves again. The are released when it is considered that the crisis is over, but contact is not lost. Almost every talk ends with agreement for a new appointment. As Witte says, a talk alone cannot eliminate problems that have often taken years to develop.

He says problems often lie with the parents, so the aim is to try and get both the parents and the child talking again.

A common problem is that children from broken homes do not want to involve their parents at any cost. This situation demands patience and finger-tip feeling.

Centre staff were early on in the piece surprised to find that many parents made strong attempts to help their children.

For many, workers at the centre were the medium through which the parents were again able to make contact with their children.

F. Diederichs

(Die Welt, 15 May 1984)

■ MODERN LIVING

The lure of the bandit with only one arm

One-armed bandit and pin-table operators tend to deny that people can become the slaves of these gambling machines.

"Unfeeling machines make people addicts sounds so neat and is so in keeping with the widespread hostility toward technology," says Friedrich Kurt Bruckmeier, spokesman for the German slot machine trade.

"People who constantly refer to the danger gaming machines represent are usually members of the older generation who have never really come to terms with leisure and sport.

"But people who enjoy a game or two are not going to be put off by such carping," he adds, which is true enough. An estimated seven million people regularly play the machines in the Federal Republic of Germany.

About 295,000 gaming machines are installed in bars and 92,000 in amusement arcades. Psychologists and youth workers are worried by the growing number of addicts.

The number of people addicted to feeding slot machines has increased steadily since the mid-1970s, both in Germany and in America and Britain.

Bremen psychologist Gerhard Meyer wrote a 1982 PhD thesis about gaming machines in which he claimed that:

"What used to be belittled as the common man's roulette has long been a harmful machine to which gamblers can all too easily grow addicted."

After interviewing 45 adult gamblers some of whom had run up enormous debts at the machines Meyer decided that addiction was the only word to describe their condition.

But Professor Iver Hand of the behavioural therapy clinic at Hamburg University Hospital, who treats gamblers as part of his work, says the term "addiction" ought not to be overused.

He feels the pathological condition of people who just can't give gaming machines a miss is best described as an obsession.

Professor Hand says there are three main groups of gamblers who seek therapeutic help. He calls them fortune-hunters, desperadoes and resigners respectively.

• The fortune-hunters, aged between 17 and 25, are markedly consumer-oriented and keen to reach the standard of living advertising and their surroundings suggest could be theirs.

Therapy is largely a matter of career planning and job seeking. This category of patient must learn how to satisfy its needs less in terms of cash.

• The desperadoes are mainly 30 to 35, men who have enjoyed life to the full as bachelors and found a partner by whom they feel hemmed in.

They gamble at the machines because they want to demonstrate to their partner how independent they are. Their losses often increase by leaps and bounds.

• The resigners are mostly around 45 and depressed by the end of a long-standing personal relationship or by trouble at work.

They partly experience and partly ward off depression. Hours spent dully playing at the machines tend to deaden feelings of sadness.

The distinction between an addiction and a neurosis is important if a suitable therapy is to be found by which to treat the slot-machine gambler.

About five gamblers a year are treated alongside alcoholics and drug addicts at Ochsenzoll psychiatric clinic, Hamburg. Like the others, they take part in self-help groups to try and break the habit for good.

"Both addictions and neuroses are obsessions," says Dr Bert Kellermann, head of the addiction unit at Ochsenzoll. "But it would be playing down the slot machine habit not to refer to it as an addiction."

Health insurance schemes have yet to acknowledge gambling as an illness, which is why therapists say gamblers suffer from depression and other mental upsets that often accompany compulsive gambling.

There is a roughly 50-per-cent chance of being cured.

Under-18s are not allowed to play at gaming machines but psychologists say 10- to 17-year-olds who spend hours at video and other machines are the mainstay of future generations of gamblers.

Bochum educationalist Joachim H. Knoll concludes in his survey of young people who play at video slot machines that it isn't true, or at least it is a distortion of the facts, to say that players are loners.

Unlike adults who work the machines for hours at a time, young people do so in groups. For them it is a leisure activity with friends.

Professor Knoll, who interviewed 120 youngsters aged 10 to 17, still felt he had to describe one category as frequent players.

This group played at video games roughly 21 times a week, whereas the average was nine times a week for the overwhelming majority of the young people he interviewed.

On average, his youngsters had DM16 a month in pocket money to spend, whereas the frequent players spent DM10 a week at the machines.

He was particularly critical of video games because they were so strongly geared in favour of performance and consumption. Young people failed completely to view slot machines with any degree of detachment.

So there may not be too great a distance between video fun with friends and spending hours working the machines for lack of something better to do.

Irene Jung

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 12 May 1984)

Hamburger Abendblatt

Trying to break the bank . . . one-armed bandit meets its master, in the film 'Monarch'. (Photo: Filmverlag der Autoren)

Children in court

Continued from page 14

themselves, 120 are beaten to death.Every day 100 run away from home, and many of these drift into drugs or crime.

Specialists say that one child in 10 in this country is emotionally disturbed and that every third one displays development problems. Many break down, caught between the pressures of emotional dereliction on one side and, on the other, pressure to perform.

It is not for nothing that West Germany is regarded as being more hostile to children than any other European nation.

The value of children to society and the state are usually discussed in terms of: "Are the Germans dying out?" and: "Who is going to pay for our pensions?"

Sigrid Latka-Jöhring

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 12 May 1984)

Drugs, car thefts, forged money: crime gets more organised

Organised crime is growing in Germany, says Heinrich Boge, head of the Wiesbaden-based *Bundeskriminalamt*, or Federal CID.

Speaking in Hanover, he said politics, administration, the trade unions and business were not yet Mafia-infiltrated as they were in America.

But one day they would be if the American pattern was followed in Europe.

That had happened with drugs, for example.

There had already been instances of the police being infiltrated. Herr Boge mentioned the case of a police inspector who had been bought by a Mafia-style organisation for DM100,000.

Night life in Frankfurt was largely dominated by Israelis. They and other ethnic minorities such as Italians, Chinese and Yugoslavs presented the police with special problems.

In some cases they were organised along gang lines, and the the *Bundeskriminalamt* had used police officers seconded from these countries.

He was convinced large-scale Mafia-like organisations were behind about 14,000 unsolved car thefts a year.They were mostly Mercedes stolen to order and shipped to the Middle East and Porsches shipped to the United States.

Large-scale organised crime was involved in counterfeiting too. Counterfeit dollar bills worth over DM100m a year were printed, mainly in northern Italy.

As for narcotics, the US market was so saturated that increasing quantities of hard drugs such as cocaine were being shipped to Europe by air and sea, in containers, for instance.

Hijacking of trucks was on the increase. In the Ruhr gangsters had been known to waylay trucks to order and had even set up a company of their own to market the goods stolen.

Herr Boge does not expect left-wing urban guerrillas to stage such spectacular coups as in 1977, but they may still rob banks to raise funds.

Following the arrest last year of prominent terrorists Christian Klar and Brigitte Mohnhaupt a hard core of urban guerrillas and about 400 sympathisers were still at large.

But leaders of the Red Army Faction had been driven into isolation as they sought to defend their organisation's claim to pre-eminence over other terrorist groups.

Recent bank raids such as in Würzburg at the end of March were clearly attributable to left-wing terrorists who had previously concentrated on "fund-raising" in Bochum and the Ruhr.

Revolutionary Cells and other autonomous groups similar to the RAF were still active but the number of raids had declined considerably since 1982.

Left-wing terrorists, Herr Boge said, could be expected to stage predictable raids, whereas right-wingers were a permanent danger because they lacked any real ideology, were unpredictable and tended toward spontaneous activities.

The police had undercover agents in right-wing groups but the problem was one that could not be dealt with solely by police methods.

The *Bundeskriminalamt* has begun to use computers to identify and recognise voices.

The alleged Hitler Diaries, for instance, could now be shown to be forgeries by computer measurement of the speed at which they were written.

Computer comparisons of linguistic style, form and content could also be used to draw inferences on the habits and life-styles of people who penned blackmail letters.

Speech recognition had been considerably improved by technical progress in sorting out interference of one kind and another.

Herr Boge said the controversial computer screening programme would still be used in cases of serious crime and terrorism, but the *Land* public prosecutor, Interior Minister and computer ombudsman would be first notified.

Many features of computer screening as used in the past were no longer of any use because details had been leaked to the public.

He was not prepared to say how many undercover agents the *Bundeskriminalamt* had, especially in fighting organised crime. He merely referred to a substantial number of officers operating under cover.

How far must a police agent go in working for a gang of criminals? He must not take an active part in their work. There must be no question of an undercover agent committing a crime to prove his credentials, as it were.

Ewald Revermann

(General-Anzeiger Bonn, 10 May 1984)